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OUTLOOKS

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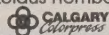
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Cover:

Bill Hernon toasts *Outlooks'* fourth anniversary with a bit of bubbly

Photographed on location at Boyztown/Metro by Simon Burroughs

Background art by Ken Annebo

With an election just around the corner, we check in with Alberta's Official Opposition Leader Nancy MacBeth

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Edmonton's Paris Market is becoming a hub in the city's rapidly revitalizing downtown core

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Palm trees and prettyboys—what more could you want in a holiday destination?

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Who's out there?



By David Crosson

Over the past few months, you may have noticed some new names appearing in the pages of *Outlooks*, names like Cullen, Huskins, Bradley and McLennan. Response to our "Calling All Mighty Pens" advertisement was quite overwhelming, not to mention reassuring—it's always nice

to see so many wanting to take an active role in the creation of this newspaper. If you turn to page 28, you'll notice that we have also added Outpost Winnipeg to our roster of out-of-province correspondents.

As *Outlooks* is, and has been, a nationally distributed paper from issue one, we are eager to establish even more provincial Outposts as the publication grows. Specific cities on our current "hit list" include Halifax, Saskatoon, St. John's and Victoria. With the recent retirement of Cindy Filipenko, we are also looking to bring a second Outpost Vancouver writer on board to share the space with Fat Johnson.

If you are motivated, professional, possess a good command of the english language and interested in becoming part of the *Outlooks* team, please submit at least two unedited examples of your work to my attention. As we generally create the paper through e-mailed submissions, I ask that you send your pieces by e-mail *only*; the address is: editor@outlooks.ab.ca. Please note that we are not looking for poetry or prose-fiction, and that our cartoon requirements are currently being fulfilled by Chelsea Boys. This is an excellent

opportunity for emerging gay and lesbian writers to gain some practical experience and put a few tear sheets into their portfolios. Due to the sheer volume of response we received with our last call for writers, I cannot guarantee personal responses to all submissions; you will be contacted by e-mail if further discussion is in order.

I would also like to hear from people interested in becoming editorial assistants. The position requires motivation, resourcefulness, an eye for detail and the ability to work well under stressful conditions. A good sense of humour is essential. Again, please forward your qualifications to my attention at: editor@outlooks.ab.ca.

Finally, after a long haul of performing Out & About duties for Calgary, I am ready to pass the camera along to someone new. This position requires someone with an outgoing, social personality, lots of energy, a good memory and a reasonably flexible schedule. Oh, it also helps if you can take pictures without putting your thumb in front of the lens! There is an honorarium for this job, as well as a small budget for reimbursement of unavoidable expenses.

We are also looking for an Out & About photographer for Vancouver. I can be reached via e-mail at... blah-blah-blah—you get the picture.

On behalf of the writers and editorial staff, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our readers and advertisers for four years of support—we couldn't have done it without you. Here's to four and many more.

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A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR AL DUERR

On behalf of City Council and all citizens of Calgary, I am pleased to include my best wishes in the fourth anniversary edition of *Outlooks* newspaper.

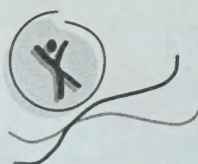
The success of *Outlooks* is indicative of the valuable service it provides to Calgary's gay and lesbian community. I commend the management and staff for not only strengthening this community, but for bridging the gap with the larger Calgary community.

Congratulations on this important milestone.

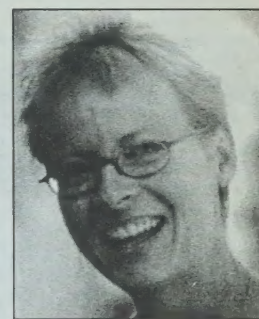
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Here's to four and many more!



By Roy Heale

One fact of life seems to be that each year passes more quickly than the previous one and here it is—our fourth anniversary already. Our first issue is just a distant memory and this forty-ninth edition—at fifty-two pages—is the largest in our short history. Throughout these past four years we have all enjoyed our labour of love each month to bring you fresh stories, cartoons, features and entertainment. We thank you, our loyal readers, for continuing to support us and for patronizing our advertisers, without whom there would be no *Outlooks*. To our advertisers, some of whom have appeared in every single issue since day one, we thank you for your continued support. A special thanks is due to all of our writers, cartoonists, editors, design and production staff, sales staff and the many support people who work hard on every issue. For the many late nights, long weekends and missed dates, I thank you. Looking back on the past four years much has changed in the gay and lesbian community across Canada, and we hope that *Outlooks* has played a role in shaping some of these changes in addition to keeping you informed. Looking forward to the next year, we hope to continue to grow, make changes to improve your monthly reading enjoyment and keep pace with the evolving times.

You will notice that we have modified the style of *Outlooks* to a magazine format in order to accommodate our larger issues and to improve the quality of each edition. Also, you will notice that more new columnists have been introduced during the past few months and, in this issue, we welcome Peter Carlyle-Gordge, our Outpost Winnipeg correspondent. We hope to continue in the next year with more new writers, features and added Outposts. We always value our readers' input, so please let us know what you would like to see in future issues and

we'll do our best to accommodate your requests.

So, to each and every one of you who have contributed to our four successful years, we say 'thank you' and look forward to many more. For me, personally, it is a dream that has come true, and I am proud of everyone who has helped make this happen.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS UNDER THE RAINBOW

By now, almost everyone is aware that we are in the midst of a provincial election here in Alberta. We have dedicated several pages of this anniversary issue to help make you aware of some of the candidates and policies of the parties, to assist with your decision-making process in determining how to cast your ballot. The most important action you can take is voting itself, because your vote really *is* important and it *will* count. Many of you are aware that the rainbow coalition, in the recent federal election, shocked many people by electing Joe Clark in the heart of Reform country last fall. A similar coalition is working again in the heart of Calgary in support of Brian Huskins in Calgary Fort, as well as some other candidates. In a *Calgary Herald* story on February 19th, 2001, Premiere Klein was

quoted as saying "...the so called rainbow coalition that helped elect federal Tory Leader Joe Clark in Calgary last fall won't make a serious dent in support for the local Tories they are opposing in the provincial election." I wonder if *he'll* be proved wrong, the same way Eric Lowther was surprised a few months ago. Now it is time for everyone to become familiar with the candidates in their local ridings and vote for the person who can best represent their philosophies and ideals. For the first time in an Alberta provincial election, we have openly gay candidates. This, in itself, should be enough reason to exercise your right to vote and support those who are working hard to win a seat in the provincial legislature and provide a voice for all of us to be heard. Don't underestimate the fact that we *can* have an influence and we *can* change the outcome in some of the ridings throughout the province. Whether you've worried about utility bills, suffered waits of four hours (or more!) to see a doctor in a clinic, tuition costs have prevented you from further education or gay rights issues have caused concern for you, it's important to vote in order to bring about positive changes. If you want to enjoy more equality in the next four years, then your

action on March 12th will be the first step towards change.

So, as our fifth year of publishing begins, we hope to continue promoting the gay and lesbian advantages in a positive way for all our readers across Canada and internationally to enjoy each month. Communication is the link that brings us all together, and we hope to be a part of that sharing process for many years to come. Thank you for your loyal support for the past four years.



"Rainbow coalition... won't make a serious dent in support for the local Tories..."

-Premier Ralph Klein

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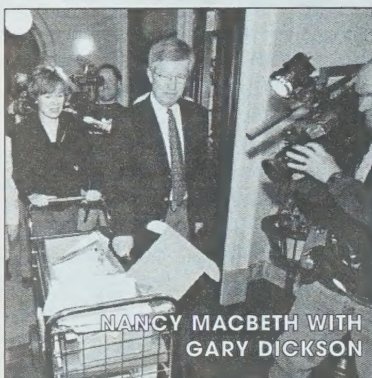
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**The New
Democrats**

Nancy MacBeth: political passion

By David Crosson

It's been one full year since we spoke with Alberta Liberal Leader Nancy MacBeth. Now, as the campaign trail heats up, we thought it would be a good idea to check in and see what she has planned for



NANCY MACBETH WITH GARY DICKSON

the province, either as the official opposition or premier, depending on how the race ends up on March 12. MacBeth took time out of her busy schedule to meet with *Outlooks* face to face, in the offices of departing MLA for Calgary Buffalo Gary Dickson.

Outlooks: In the past weeks, some members of the mainstream media have been critical of the Alberta Liberal party for not presenting a clearly defined platform; do you feel that this is a fair assessment of the situation?

MacBeth: I think people know where we stand on issues that distinguish us from the Klein Tories, to a much greater extent than they might admit. In terms of the issues that are top of mind for Albertans in this election, clearly electricity deregulation is a huge one. I think that health care will continue to be an issue; Bill 11 allows for the public funding of private for-profit medicine and I think the debate will go on. Education will always be an issue, because it's the foundation upon which everything else is built. To me, public education is how we build a tolerant society, how we build good citizens. Those will be the three biggies.

Outlooks: And your thoughts on gay and lesbian issues?

MacBeth: My view is that the essence of democracy is the equality of *all* people. We have said, with respect to human rights legislation, we are not going to assume it's written in, we will in fact allow sexual orientation to be included in our human rights legislation here in Alberta. We have been fearless fighters for the equality of all persons. Gary Dickson and Brian Edy, our new candidate for Calgary Buffalo, fought against the use of the "notwithstanding" clause. One other issue that came up when

we were in the legislature a year ago was Bill 38, which would have allowed the majority to vote on the rights of a minority. You can't imagine a worse scenario than that! That bill, fortunately, was pulled by the government with our urging and insistence. It, so far, has not seen the light of day and, depending on the next election, it never will!

Outlooks: If you were elected premier of Alberta, what steps would you take to help reverse the perception that we're a redneck province?

MacBeth: Well, I think some of the action we could take definitely includes putting sexual orientation into the human rights legislation; I think that's a very important message. I think one of the reasons that there is a perception of Alberta as a backwater—as opposed to the very, very vibrant community I believe we are—is partly due to a government that is thirty years old and burdened by some ideological baggage.

Outlooks: For example?

MacBeth: Well, you've got the progressives and the conservatives: the progressives feel like they don't have a home with them and the conservatives—certainly some of them—are intolerant of differences among people. I think it's fundamentally important to not pick "winners" and "losers," to not say "These people have rights and these people don't." The government's line is often "give special rights," and they're *not* special rights, they're equal rights. Basically, I think the government's view is that people can be discriminated against in terms of whether or not they can rent an apartment or whatever. We have fought long and hard in the legislature against that kind of thinking; our record stands clear and we'll continue to fight.

Outlooks: There is a B.C. case before the Supreme Court, and obviously two Ontario cases soon to follow, with regard to gay marriage. What would the provincial Liberal standpoint be if our highest court did decide that the denial of gay marriage violates the Charter of Rights and Freedoms?

MacBeth: Well, first of all, we won't break the law, obviously. We put forward what we thought was a solution in Alberta, where the term "marriage" was protected for a heterosexual union, but that we'd also recognize that there are other forms of partnerships that are just as valid as a man and a woman in marriage. We cited not only same-sex relationships, but parent-sibling relationships, two siblings together—which are just as much long-term relationships and long-term support as a marriage, albeit in a different form. Gary Dickson, who as you know is not running

as an MLA, will continue to be very involved. He's someone whose opinions and actions I really trust on this issue; he has certainly provided some real leadership not only in our caucus but in Alberta.

Outlooks: By lumping gays and lesbians into the same category as other dependent relationships, don't you negate the legitimacy of conjugal, cohabitive, committed same-sex unions within the community?

MacBeth: Well, our record in this area is clear. Resolution 99, which was passed at the 2000 Alberta Liberal Party Policy Convention states, "That the Alberta Liberal Party will not use the 'notwithstanding clause' of the Charter to allow legislation that discriminates against minority groups of Albertans."

When we talk about recognizing and supporting same-sex relationships and families in similar ways as other close personal relationships between adults, you may rest assured that, unlike the "code words" used by other political parties and special interest groups, this in no way is meant to reflect negatively on same-sex relationships and families.

In 1999 the Alberta Liberal Caucus introduced amendments to the Domestic Relations Amendment Act to recognize the variety of mutually supportive living arrangements chosen by Albertans, including same-sex relationships. At the time I stated that the proposals would treat all Albertans equally, recognize the freedom of Albertans to enter into a variety of mutually supportive long term relationships, and anticipate and avoid further Charter challenges. Accepting these amendments would mean the adoption of a model that can be used in revising many other Alberta laws that discriminate against some groups and individuals.

Alberta Liberals recognize the principle of equal treatment for all common-law relationships, same-sex and opposite-sex, in relation to benefits and obligations. We will continue to fight to ensure that provincial policies and programs reflect the values of equality enshrined in the Charter. Alberta Liberals are committed to fairness and equality for all Albertans.

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INTERVIEW

NDP's united support



RAJ PANNU WITH ALBERTA GOVERNOR GENERAL LOIS HOLE

by David Crosson

We here at *Outlooks*, with issues of equality on our minds, wanted to provide each of the three provincial party leaders with an opportunity to speak out on some key concerns. So, without any further delay, we present New Democrat candidate and party leader Raj Pannu.

Outlooks: What, in your opinion, is the number one problem the sitting government currently has?

Pannu: Well, the pursuit of a dogma which has blinded them to the very dangerous failures of the policies they are propagating. The latest one, of course, is the deregulation of electricity in this province and, many years before that, the deregulation of the natural gas market. Both of these are hitting the pocketbooks of all Albertans so hard right now. And this government, because of its attachment to that dogma, is unable to change course - even when it's clear in places like California where it hasn't worked.

Outlooks: The New Democrats have always had a good track record when it comes to human rights and equality issues, and they certainly have been very vocal when it comes to gay and lesbian issues. Have you found this to be a bit of a political millstone around your neck in this particular province?

Pannu: It's certainly not an issue that has emerged as a key platform issue, but

remember that it is one that threatens the fundamental rights of Canadians and Albertans; rights that are entrenched, in a sense, now in our constitution. What the Alberta government has done all the way through, including the support of the caucus for Victor Doerkson's bill, is an affront to notions of equality, an affront to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that we as Canadians have guaranteed to us. The fact that this government, either directly or indirectly encourages the debate on these issues in the form of those bills suggests that there is something very seriously wrong. This government's attitude in general is a constant threat to the values that Albertans and Canadians have successfully got enshrined in the constitution. They are out of touch.

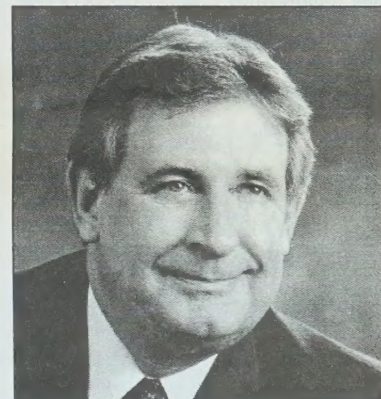
Outlooks: With regard to equality issues and issues for minorities, do you think you've got a better perspective than perhaps some because you are a visible minority yourself?

Pannu: It may have. I've never really reflected on it in that way but, clearly, my position as a visible minority reminds me how other minorities could be treated. The particular ethno-cultural community that I come from has certainly suffered, over the last century, from bigotry and official discrimination. So, surely, that's one factor. I grew up as a young fellow in India, where I wasn't a victim of this kind of discrimination and, even then, I was very much aware of the offensive, racially discriminatory policies of Canada Immigration that led to Komagata Maru, the incident in the early part of last century. That was a very big issue in Punjab, when I was growing up. We were kind of fed on that, tired of the internationalism, aware of the importance of equality, the importance of human rights. So, for me, it is not a matter that grew out of my experience after

having arrived here in Canada; it is something that I grew up with as a child. I'm very much concerned with the rights of minorities and how democratic societies must pass this test. If you don't protect your minorities, you simply aren't dedicated to democracy.

Outlooks: Now, I noticed that your party sent out a blanket response to our political survey, and two of your candidates [Katie Benschop and Guy Desrosiers] referred to the same one in answering. Is it important for you that the New Democrats present a united front when it comes to your policies?

Pannu: Yes. Our party has a policy which, as you well know, is determined by provincial conventions on an annual basis. And my party is certainly unified in terms of backing that policy that's on the books.



Ralph Klein was also approached for an interview. We were advised by Gordon Turtle in the Premier's campaign office that the Premier is too busy during an election campaign to grant one-on-one media interviews. (Funny, we thought that it was part of the purpose of an election campaign to communicate with Albertans).

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Plugged in to Queertv

By Darren Hagen

QT - *QueerTelevision* bills itself as "A 'Closet-Free' Experience".

"We're out to be real...and when you're real, you're bound to ruffle feathers. But that's cool, because authenticity isn't served by being mindless cheerleaders for any community." In fact, *Queertv* host and senior producer Irshad Manji is reluctant to use the word 'community'. She prefers 'constituency'.

"The slogans simply don't cut it as truth," she says "What we are is a constituency of people who have our share of brilliance and our share of idiocy. We're not interested in validity for the sake of validity, either. In that sense, let us assume that we are all equal players with heterosexuals, taking responsibility for our actions. *Queertv* reflects that confidence. It's exposing and illuminating."

Manji is a Toronto-based author and broadcaster, recently named by *Ms* magazine as "Feminist For The 21st century", and by *Maclean's* magazine as one of "100 Leaders For Tomorrow." According to Moses Znaimer, Canadian media god and executive producer of *QT*, Manji is the only feminist/Muslim/lesbian/ capitalist he has ever had the pleasure of meeting.

QT prompts viewers, gay and straight, to take pride in their individuality. The half-hour weekly TV/Internet magazine, now in its second season, showcases the innovators, tastemakers and just plain folks who make up the queer constituency that Manji speaks of.

But does *QT* speak on behalf of the GLBT community?

"Impossible," says Znaimer, the television pioneer who put Canadian television on the world map. "We're talking about an extremely fractious, well-educated, highly opinionated community. It's not possible, or desirable. We're television; we're not running for office. The key is to have as many voices as possible."

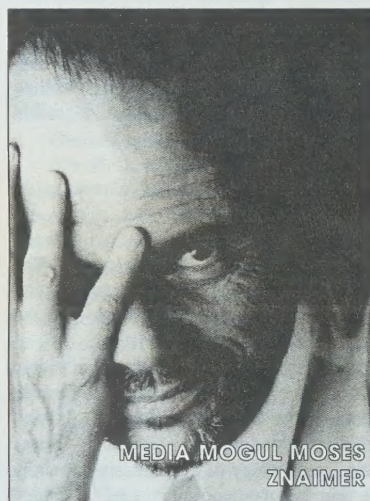
"The effort to bring queer representation to the screen needs to be taken out of the realm of 'good works' or 'progressive courage' or 'an act of charity.' Like any other television experience, *QT* has to pay its own way. No please, no thank you. You call the shots."

This is Moses' way of letting us know that the success of something like *QT* is in the hands of the audience it serves.

"The community, in spite of being

well-heeled, with more disposable income than most, is mired in bourgeois thinking" he offers. "The gay and lesbian community needs to marshal its own economic clout to get representation on the air. *QT* needs to pay its own way, and the GLBT community is not yet very efficient economically."

CITY TV was one of the first multicultural/multilingual stations around. Znaimer notes how important that was to fledgling identities. "The first thing you see is that a minority establishes itself as a community. It is then that they want to manifest on television: the ultimate reality, the ultimate confirmation that they're here! The stability and the sense of self that



those images provide are the first stirrings of a rudimentary economy." According to Znaimer, in the case of the gay and lesbian community, "they have not flocked to support what manifests on its own. They need to advertise on the show, sponsor it; not just enough for it to exist, but to reach the high level of sophistication that will display life in its best light."

Interactivity is the chosen lifestyle on *QT*, and the program hosts special online chats as well as accepting phone calls and streaming viewer video.

This feedback is Manji's favorite element. "'Tell It To The Q!'" features audience email and voicemail. I'm more than happy to include the negative feedback as well" she says. "It's a reality check—all opinions are valid, and it gives me an opportunity to respond."

She laughs about one of her favourite messages that reached *QT*: a male who's comment about the show consisted of "You guys are so friggin'

gay, ya know! Holy crap!" Manji's on-air response "Holy firm-grasp-of-the-obvious!"

"My dialogue with the viewers immediately sends the message: that one can be secure enough to engage with strangers—and have a sense of humour about it."

There's no room for political correctness on *QT*, says Manji. "Political correctness gets in the way of honesty." And *QT* thrives on pushing those buttons that make queers question their own prejudices. A recent episode featured a couple that lives in a very traditional family setting outside of Calgary—the husband is hetero, the wife a lesbian.

"But what the wife told us is that it's next to impossible to find a lesbian who will 'tolerate' a straight man in her daily midst. That level of insularity is also cited by a viewer whose phone call we aired" Manji says.

"He said that as a straight guy with lots of gay friends, he often goes to gay bars. But the moment other patrons find out he's het, he becomes a 'breeder.' He's comfortable with his sexuality, yet they're not comfortable with him. So he

wants to know: why this 'reverse hate'?"

"We not only felt it to be a valid question; we also used it to ask our viewers what responsibility gays and lesbians have to making this a more inclusive society," she continues. "Double standards in the straight world are immediately unacceptable to us, right? Now, it's *our own* double standards that we need to examine."

"This doesn't have to be threatening. We all contend with contradictions in our lives. Acknowledging those contradictions allows the rest of the world to relate to us as human beings, not cardboard cut-outs. It builds credibility for us as a people."

QT puts its politics into reality. The co-producer of the weekly program is Adriana Salvia, a straight woman (as if labels matter at this point) who originally hails from Edmonton's AccessTV.

"I've learned so much working on this show, although it's lousy for my dating life," laughs Salvia. "Irshad says she hired me for my curiosity and storytelling skills. Good thing, because I had

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 8

to spend my first year being educated about what makes gays and lesbians more than sexual beings. I phoned my mom in Edmonton one day and said 'Mom, they even have their own flag!'"

Salvia was completely bowled over by her first exposure to Toronto's gay 'hood. "I had lived in Vancouver near



QT HOST IDRISH MANJI

Davie and Denman, but was still amazed by the amount of tolerance for total diversity here, be it racial, sexual, religious or fill in the blank."

"I like to think my perspective helps bring that wider audience into the fold, but when I'm researching, I don't think

'gay and lesbian.' My first question is always 'Is this a good story?' The orientation of the people involved is just the prism the story is viewed through."

For example, she interviewed a gay German who fought in the resistance against the Nazis to free people from the death camps. "As he told his story, this frail old man, I began to understand how brave he was, how much vitality he had possessed. He freed hundreds of people. And yet, his Jewish boyfriend was the only one to walk back into the extermination camp to be with his family. Imagine facing that choice. Imagine the old man's heartbreak, even decades later. That's what I mean by a good story."

Co-producing *QT* has exposed Salvia to some experiences that would have probably remained outside her life experience otherwise. Not only did she witness the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras in person, but she underwent nothing short of a transformation at Roma Pride 2000:

"This was not my father's Italy, you know what I'm saying? People were questioning the Vatican, politicians were coming out of the closet... Of course, the Vatican refused to participate in the story. At one point we were questioning an old priest in Rome; I was struggling to keep up, in my limited Italian, but I could gather from his tone that he was upset. When he left, I asked my translator to fill me in on the nuances.

He said, 'This priest knows he will never be promoted to the Vatican, because he has worked with gay and lesbian youth. He said 'Shame on the Vatican for allowing into the fold all kinds of gay men, and then denying them their humanity.'

"When I got home, I told my mother about this. She quietly replied, 'It is a good thing you are doing here.'"

Salvia admits the experiences she's had have opened her mind, not just to gay and lesbian issues, but to all the larger ones in her life. "There's a lot of bravery out there," she says.

For Manji, the various forms of media are tools for changing the world. "The effect of the media on public perception is huge," she says. "We are surrounded by media; from television to graffiti, we process data constantly. It doesn't determine our attitudes, but it influences. It can shed light on what most people don't see. The goal is to have *QT* demystify, not validate. Be relevant. Be honest. Be human"

How is television affected by the fact that more of its members are "out" than ever before?

According to Znaimer, what we are witnessing now is the dawn of a queer presence on television. "The first level was to put obviously gay people on the air, without telling them to cover up who or what they are; to be as fully out as they were in their own lives. The second

level is happening in America: gay characters, albeit ritualized ones, on network television" he says.

"As the lives of the people involved become easier, more direct, more honest, the product will become better. The first breakthrough is personal; the result is that the industry will encompass more themes than ever. I predict a progression of images: soon the gay character won't be just a funny sidekick, but the main character...grounded, intelligent, heroic."

As this article goes to print, *QT* has learned that it's being picked up in Portugal. If a Catholic stronghold like Portugal can handle the reality of *QT*, surely Western Canada is ready. "This is a show about people, not sex," Manji reassures. But as Znaimer suggests, it is our voices that have to ask for it.

Darrin Hagen is a freelance writer, performer, composer and drag artiste. He is the co-host of Access Television's Help!TV, seen nationally on Canadian Learning Television, and the author of *The Edmonton Queen: Not A Riverboat Story*.

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It is my pleasure to congratulate you and your staff on the occasion of your fourth anniversary. The Calgary Police Service fully supports your goal of fostering a greater sense of understanding between the gay and heterosexual communities while entertaining and informing your readership.

It has long been a goal of the Calgary Police Service to promote tolerance and social cohesion by recognizing and respecting the diversity within our city. Since its creation in 1979, our Cultural Resources Unit has worked to foster awareness, tolerance and understanding between police and Calgary's diverse cultural groups, including the gay and lesbian communities. We look forward to the continuation of the positive relationship between *Outlooks* and the Calgary Police Service.

Outlooks newspaper provides an important forum for the expression of the views of one of Calgary's many diverse groups. On behalf of the Calgary Police Service, I wish you many more years of publishing success.

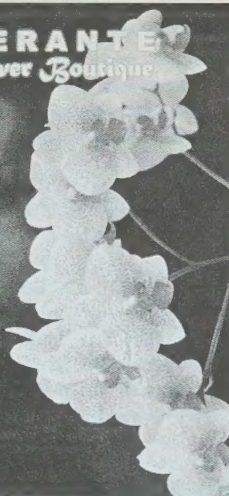
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H O R O S C O P E

By Charlene Lichtenstein

We tend to think that March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb, but don't you believe it, sweetheart. I say that March will come out loud, proud and *queer*. Make it happen as the Sun saunters into robust Aries on the 21st and Mercury traverses mystical Pisces on the 18th. 'Nuff said!

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

Early March will bring a readjustment in your spiritual outlook, but proud Rams are due for a re-evaluation of their secret checklist as Mercury tips into Pisces. It will be against your best interest to hang onto outdated standards that cramp your happiness and affirmation. Reap your rewards mid-month when the Sun enters Aries and makes your dreamboats come true (no names please...).

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21)

Gay Bulls will be tempted to boss the course in friendships as the social director who commands the social scene. Have your wish until mid-month when your thoughts will turn to personal issues and your mission will take on a more humanitarian skew—it's time to get those lovely hooves galloping into a good gay cause! Volunteer for one of our community organizations and don't look back.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUN 21)

Your career will land on the front burner in early March, but try not to burn your hands on a political stew-pot. Your professional aspirations must be addressed before you can ever consider playful pastimes with pals. It's a good thing that gay Twins are one of the most diplomatic signs in the zodiac; you'll be able to eat your corporate cake and share it with friends too. Or so you may think....

CANCER (JUN 22 - JUL 23)

It's time to get out of your shell, dear, queer Crab and see the world while the

planetary energy is right. The Mercury will conspire to put a little itching powder in your travelling shoes, so scratch that itch before career imperatives come calling. Before you know it, you'll be swimming in that corporate shark tank. Watch out, Don't get eaten—unless you like it that way!

LEO (JUL 24 - AUG 23)

Proud Lions will have all the luck in early March, as the planets guarantee a fine, feisty time sexually. Enjoy the feast while it lasts, honey: by mid-March you may be more involved in more global pursuits, legal issues or even travel to some international hot-spot. Who knows; you may want to bring a travelling companion to share the heat! Why must Mercury send you some possibilities?

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEP 23)

Practical pink Virgins will need to spend some good gay quality time with partners. Assess your needs; are they being fulfilled? If the answer is 'yes,' you lucky thing, do what you can to spoil partners rotten. If the answer is 'no,' see if it can be salvaged or whether it must be scrapped. By mid-March' you'll be rarin' and ready for some steamy little sexcapade. Hopefully you won't have to go it alone....

LIBRA (SEP 24 - OCT 23)

What would life be like if your desk were clean and the job was done? Pretty boring, eh? Well, don't worry: the planets almost guarantee that your day-to-day job won't be dull. Are you happy and fulfilled at work? Think about what you would love to do and set a personal goal to do it. By mid-March, queer Libras will focus more on partnerships. Seek and ye shall find, lover.

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

The fabulous February festivities will continue for a little while in March, so put this jolly energy to the best use by pursuing more creative endeavours. Join a theatre group or participate in the artistic process

by buying some artwork. Whatever you decide, tie up the loose ends by mid-month—the planets are on to new tasks and so should you be. Get back to work, gay Scorpi!

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 22)

Don't be a sullen pink Sag; tackle long-standing home and family issues while the planetary energy is right. Queer Archers may need to deface the family mandate in order to breathe free and feel affirmed. So be it! You'll be so happy that the urge to let loose and party may be overwhelming; don an appropriate lampshade and dance the night away. Bring Mom along.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20)

Your eloquent words will touch others and move mountains, so get the agenda on fast-forward and say what needs to be said by mid-month. After that, gay Goats may prefer to cocoon in the warm cosiness of their home. Share the bliss with a close pal or two. Who knows, you may even enlist them to help you redecorate or move the furniture around. Make your home your statement.

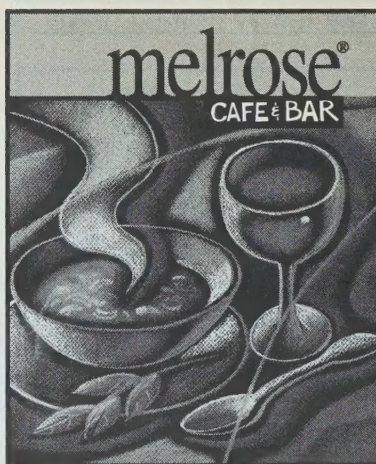
AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19)

Aqueerians should be able to amass a nifty nest egg when first the Sun, and then Mercury, spreads the bounty for you financially. The trick is to buy low and sell high. Happily, with careful planning and astute advice, you'll be on the road to retirement in no time. By mid-month, consider getting your opinions out and about. Your words are your weapons, so sharpen 'em up.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

Happy birthday dear, queer Fish. The spotlight will be on you until mid-March, so meet and greet and demonstrate the meaning of the word fabulous. The tenor will change in late March when money matters and investment strategies require more attention. Good thing, too, as you certainly don't want to be a drone for the rest of your life. Plan on becoming royalty instead.

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How would you grade the Klein Conservative record in promoting equal rights for all?

- Fought Delwin Vriend's claim that discrimination based on sexual orientation should be prohibited in the Alberta Human Rights Code all the way to the Supreme Court - and lost 8 to 0.
- Reacted to the Vriend decision by forming the "Fences Committee" to put barriers in place preventing gays and lesbians from obtaining equal rights in other areas.
- Fought against Lesbian couple's applications to adopt children born into their families for 2 years in court - and lost.
- Attempted to prevent victims of sterilization from obtaining reasonable compensation.
- Continued to discriminate by not recognizing same sex partners rights in any piece of legislation, be it related to family law, inheritance rights, or anything else.
- While the Federal, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec Governments have all amended their laws to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, Alberta has done nothing.
- Passed legislation indicating that they would invoke the notwithstanding clause of the Charter of Rights to prevent same sex marriages.

We give them an "F"!

How would you grade Brian Edy's record in promoting equal rights for all?

- One of the legal counsel in the Supreme Court arguing in favour of Delwin Vriend's landmark claim.
- Legal counsel for the Psychologists Association Alta. arguing in favour of the Lesbian couples right to adopt their partner's children where it was determined to be in the child's best interest.
- Fought for victim's of sterilisation obtaining fairness, and fought against the government's attempt to restrict this right.
- Recipient of the Suzanne Mah Award in recognition of his exemplary legal work in fighting for human rights for everyone;
- Past President and continuing Director of the Alberta Civil Liberties Association;
- Continuing National Director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association;
- Past President of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Association;
- Vice President of the Dignity Foundation of Alberta.
- Promises to fight for legislation to recognise the legal rights of those in common law domestic partnerships, and provide same sex benefits.

We give Brian an "A+"!

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As stated by Rev. Bill Phipps, former Moderator (Head) of the United Church of Canada:
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Getting cheeky for charity



CALGARY CARES: HAIRDOS AND HIJINKS

By Nancy Jo Cullen

On Saturday, March 24, AIDS Calgary Awareness Association, SMED International and M.A.C. Cosmetics will present the eighth annual Calgary Cares fundraiser at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. The title of this year's gala event is *A Cheeky Affair*, and the night promises to be celebratory, sexy and playful.

Andre Ricard, Calgary Cares' Art Director (and all around Jack-of-all-trades) describes the night's performance as a fusion of fashion and theatre that is

definitely *not* a fashion show—not, at least, if you expect to see models staidly parading up and down a runway. Ricard, a designer with a long history of producing fashion shows, wanted to take the show in a new direction, one that involves theatre and entertainment as much as it involves fashion.

This is Ricard's second year working in this capacity for the event. Last year he made his mark at the gala with *Everyone's Fantasy*, a vehicle for exploring designer fantasies from Mardi Gras to drag queen superheroes. It was

also the show that took the fundraiser in its theatrical direction and cemented its reputation as one of the best fundraising events in Calgary. *FFWD* magazine rated Calgary Cares 2000 as the city's second-best fundraising event—great praise indeed, even if it does bring to mind the old saying “always a bridesmaid...”

Calgary Cares 2001 will showcase the designs of Barbie Anderson, Jessica Murray and Peter Petyr, Shae Barry, Colleen G. Bryant and Andre Ricard, just to name a few. You can expect to see a tribute to Vanna White and game shows, as well as former Miss Canada Shannon McArthur and the A Channel's *Big Breakfast* duo Dave Kelly and Jebb Fink. You may even win a diamond—hey, you can't get married in Alberta but you can give your sweetheart the ring! This fashion happening will also involve the volunteer labour of 166 dancers and models, as well as five choreographers in addition to Ricard. And then there is the costumed stage crew.

Once the performance is over, attendees can take to the foyer of the Jack Singer for the second portion of a silent

auction, as well as other fundraising activities. The night culminates in a wild dance party where performers, volunteers and event-goers can dance the night away. Tickets for the fundraiser are \$100 each, but before you start sputtering about the cost of this benefit remember it's an all-inclusive night—your drinks and food are free and you can choose from any number of Calgary's fine restaurants and beverage companies to please your palate before and after the show. Face it, it's easy to drop \$100 on dinner and dancing on *any* given Friday night—the fact that this event gives back to the community and improves your



SYNCHRONIZED DRAG

Continued on page 13



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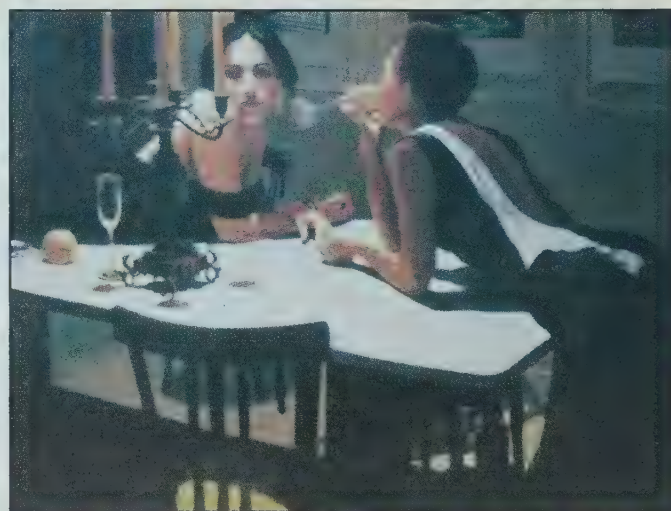
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karma rating is merely a bonus. Organizers, who are reaching out to the wider community in their publicity efforts, expect about 1000 people to attend and be a part of Calgary at its cosmopolitan best.

The event is huge in its scope and takes a tremendous organizing effort from the community. Jim Button, Chair of Calgary Cares, and his executive committee are charged with the task of pulling together roughly 300 volunteers. Each member of the fourteen person executive committee is in charge of a sub-committee, which then pulls together the volunteers needed to make this night a major event. As you read this they are still looking for volunteers (to later dance the night away at a wild dance party full of models and dancers and loads of funky people—hint, hint).

The money raised at Calgary Cares enables AIDS Calgary to continue offering programming in support, community outreach, and information & training services to people living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS. It's AIDS Calgary's premier fundraiser and community support is vital to its success.

Calgary Cares is an exciting social event that brings together a wide cross-section of this city's community. For a taste of what to expect at this year's show on March 24th, check out the downtown Bay, which is featuring Calgary Cares and *A Cheeky Affair* in its 7th Avenue window. Then make sure to buy a ticket, so that next year *FFWD* will call Calgary Cares 2001 the *best party in town*.

Calgary Cares 2001 *A Cheeky Affair* takes place March 24th, 7pm, at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. If you're interested in buying tickets (groups of ten can purchase their tickets for a discounted rate of \$90 each) call (403) 541-9255 or book your tickets through Ticketmaster at 777-0000. For any other information or to volunteer you can reach Calgary Cares at (403) 541-9255. You will find their website at www.calgarycares.com.

Nancy Jo Cullen is a poet-playwright and co-founder of Calgary's first feminist theatre company committed to producing new works for the stage, Maenad Theatre.

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Political entertainment in B.C.



By Pat Johnson

Alberta is not the only province that is in the election spirit: British Columbia is poised for a vote as the NDP are inching toward the end of their five-year constitutional mandate.

However, unlike the Alberta legislature (which will likely look much the same after the election as it did before) the B.C. ledge seems destined for a major makeover. Polls suggest the New Democrats are about to be wiped off the political map in this province.

The reasons are fairly simple—people hate them. Well, *most* people, apparently. The governing party is below twenty percent in the opinion polls, compared with the Liberal party—which has not tasted power in the province in forty-nine years—which stands at close to sixty percent. Pundits are suggesting that the Liberals might win every seat in the legislature.

Not likely, in reality. When the time comes for the actual campaign, the NDP's core vote will likely return, giving them, say, thirty or thirty-five percent of the vote and a respectable number of seats on the opposition side of the House. However, few people other than Premier Ujjal Dosanjh are actually suggesting they have a snowball's chance in Victoria of actually winning the election. In fact, a few high-placed New Democrats have argued that the campaign should focus on a strategy of running for opposition—that is, admit that the Liberals are going to win and then argue that the voters should spare a dozen or so New Democrats to keep the Liberals honest. (I might suggest the slogan for such a campaign: "Throw the bums in.")

The reason for the intense antipathy toward the NDP here is due mostly to the apparent fiscal clumsiness of the government and the appearance of the party as a sometimes rudderless vessel. Plus a little typically British Columbian politicking.

Before I give a not-so-brief synopsis of recent B.C. political history, it might be wise to remember the old, anonymous political axiom about this country: in the Maritimes, politics is a pastime, in Quebec politics is a religion, in Ontario a business, on the Prairies a cause and, in British Columbia, entertainment.

After Mike Harcourt returned the NDP to office ten years ago, things started to go awry. Internal bickering and a nearly two-decade-old scandal involving the funneling of charity bingo money into party accounts drove Harcourt to take the dive just as it seemed the province's budget was getting in order. He was replaced by the scrappy Glen Clark, who was accused by opponents of being a class warrior. The NDP campaign against Liberal

Leader Gordon Campbell last election painted Campbell as a puppet of corporate interests and asked the rhetorical question: "Whose side is he on, anyway?"

Clark, despite warnings from bureaucrats that he was being overly optimistic, brought in the first balanced budget in the province in years, then called an election. After he was elected by the thinnest of legislative margins—the Liberals actually got more votes—he admitted he might need some "wiggle room" as the budget projections might have been too optimistic. (It would be another three years before the budget was ever actually balanced.)

Then police raided Clark's home to find out a bit more about the relationship between an application for a casino license by a family friend and a deck the applicant had built for Clark on his house. Though New Democrats pooh-poohed the significance of the apparent conflict ("Deck added to Clark's house; Province in turmoil" read bumper stickers), Clark resigned when the conflict of interest commissioner released his report on the matter. As well, then-attorney general Ujjal Dosanjh acknowledged there was a police investigation underway into Clark's actions.

Clark's resignation begat interim Premier Dan Miller, and a leadership convention begat Premier Ujjal Dosanjh.

Though Dosanjh is considered squeaky clean and is more personally popular than Campbell, confusion and a few more scandals reigned. The fresh face has so far failed to counter the abysmal poll ratings.

So people are no longer talking about "if" the Liberals win the election, but "when." It is destined to create a strange dynamic in the race, with the incumbent government going in as a deep-down underdog.

Few tears will probably be shed for the demise of the NDP. However, just as Brian Mulroney was not *all* bad (please don't send letters), people quickly forget the good that a government does.

The NDP in British Columbia has probably been the most gay-positive government ever elected anywhere in the world outside of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. One of the first things Harcourt did as premier was reverse the homophobic Social Credit government's refusal to legislate protection for gays and lesbians under the human rights code. (Oh yeah: most of the old Social Crediters are backing the Liberals now, including a few former MLAs and cabinet ministers who are running as Liberal candidates.)

From the beginning of their mandate to what appears to be the bitter end, the New Democrats have been unequivocal in their support of lesbian and gay concerns. What's

more, there has apparently been barely a whiff of opposition within the party to any of these measures. To our credit, British Columbians in general have hardly raised an eyebrow at these measures either, despite a few rabble-rousers in the Liberal party and the returned-from-the-grave gadfly former premier Bill Vander Zalm.

From that first tone-setting act, the NDP government (under its numerous leaders) has amended almost every relevant law in the province so it does not discriminate against same-sex couples. No employer in B.C. can offer any benefit to their heterosexual employees' families that they do not offer to their homosexual employees' families. The Ministry of Education has introduced thoughtful curriculum amendments to teach tolerance of lesbians and gays and has stood firm when some backwater school boards objected. Adoption by same-sex couples or individual gays and lesbians has been affirmed in law and legislation has been passed to ensure that children who live in common-law families (gay or straight) do not suffer during a family break-up any more than their peers in opposite-sex legally married families. A long-term updated provincial AIDS strategy is under development, the government has helped fund a state-of-the-art AIDS centre and continues to fund various programs and new treatments through the world-renowned B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. And so on and so forth.

On top of all of this, the B.C. government is challenging the federal government in court to determine whether the feds' definition of spouse (one man, one woman) contravenes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

So maybe the NDP were the Clampetts when they found themselves in charge of the impressive legislative buildings. So maybe they screwed up one project after another. Maybe they haven't always been honest. But gays and lesbians will never have a friendlier government in Victoria.

Pat Johnson is a communications consultant, a reporter with Jewish Western Bulletin and a freelance writer for the Vancouver Courier and numerous other publications.

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POLITICIANS

In the upcoming provincial election, a number of candidates will play key roles in determining the direction of Alberta human rights issues, should they be elected. From new, young voices to trusted old friends, gay or straight, these are the ones to watch.



Throughout her political career, Laurie Blakeman has been supportive of—and, in turn, supported by—the gay community, on whose behalf she plays a very active role with regard to human rights issues. She, along with Calgary Buffalo MLA and Opposition Human Rights Critic Gary Dickson, was instrumental in the success of the Delwin Vriend case a few years ago. Blakeman is seeking re-election in Edmonton Centre, a central urban riding with a high concentration of gay and lesbian voters.

"I think it's important to uphold and protect human rights. I do have a large gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community - I'm proud of them and I'm certainly going to stand up and represent them. Frankly, it's the right thing to do. The surveys that have been done across Canada show that the Canadian public is ready to accept this. They are not comfortable with the divide and conquer approach from government, they are not comfortable seeing a

government sector off a group of people and say, 'You're not worth as much; you're not equal.' That is not acceptable to me. I'm not going to stand for any group of people being discriminated against."



Even before Brian Edy threw his hat into the political ring, he was extremely active in human rights campaigns in Alberta. He was heavily involved in the landmark Vriend case and also played a crucial role in the lesbian adoption case shortly thereafter. He is picking up the torch from long-time Liberal MLA Gary Dickson, who is departing the riding of Calgary Buffalo to pursue other projects.

"I feel a social obligation to try to help people; I've done that in my law practice. This is just taking my advocacy to a different forum, a different level. It's carrying on the tradition of two friends of mine—Sheldon Chumir and Gary Dickson—and also Ron Gitter, who has been very dedicated to human rights. I strongly believe that people need a voice; if there is a Klein majority government, you want to have somebody there to speak out on the issues for people who live here. It's good in a democracy to have someone like me who is a watchdog, and not a lapdog, for government policies."



Harvey Voogd has always had a keen interest in politics, but the interest grew much keener through his experience working for openly gay Edmonton City Councillor Michael Phair. Voogd's home riding of Edmonton Norwood is both central and diverse in its population, making it a key riding for gay and lesbian votes.

"Working for Michael Phair gave me three really important insights: it gave me hands-on skills for what a politician does in dealing with constituent work; it was a chance to see to what degree you control the job, and the job controls you; and Michael Phair has been a mentor to me. The way he deals with people has been inspiring. He has been a model for how to do the job well. I have a long history of involvement in community issues, everything from crime and safety to housing to health care and environmental concerns. I'm running in a very diverse riding; it's my home, it's a place I feel comfortable with and I feel that I can do a good job."



As the president of the Progressive Conservative Youth of Alberta, Kyle Franz caused a bit of a stir when he appeared as a Don't You Wish? Model in the November 2000 issue of *Outlooks*. He feels

that youth involvement in politics is crucial for providing input in the democratic process, and feels very strongly about many of the policies of the Tory platform.

"I really couldn't be [at odds with party politics], to be incredibly honest, because officially they don't have a policy at all. There are some individuals who have their own individual thoughts, but that's true in any group. There are a lot of things I disagree with a lot of people on. I've been involved since 1996, and I feel if you don't participate, then how can you expect your voice to be heard? People who don't vote and then whine and complain about things, as far as I'm concerned, they've got no right to. If you vote you've had your say and helped along the democratic process."



At eighteen, Lorne Neudorf is one of the youngest candidates running in the provincial election, taking on Calgary West incumbent Karen Kryckza. Like Kyle Franz, Neudorf feels it is important for young people to take an interest in politics and bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table.

"Young people have one of the lowest voter turnout rates. It's not that they aren't

Continued on page 17



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2001 February 20

Outlooks Newspaper

Congratulations on your 4th birthday!

Certainly, the 4 year milestone for any small business or publication is a very important one. Statistics show that 4 out of 5 startups fail within the first 5 years, which as a small business advocate, I find extremely unfortunate.

Outlooks has managed to beat these odds, you have succeeded, are growing in influences and have brought an important voice to an important social issue. As such, in addition to your business successes, you have contributed greatly towards building a more inclusive society for all.

Congratulations once again.

Yours truly,

JON LORD
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concerned with the issues, they often just have a hard time trying to identify with the candidate. Most candidates present their message in an intimidating style, which the youth are not receptive to. We need to get more youth involved and send a strong message to this government. It would be excellent to have a youth MLA elected as a voice for the young people here in Calgary. I believe the government has lost touch with Albertans after thirty years of being unchallenged. We've clearly seen that they have no vision. It reminds me of one of my favourite quotes: If you don't know where you're headed, any road will take you there."



Brian Huskins has taken openly gay one step further and, by all accounts, is the first openly HIV-positive political candidate in this country, let alone the province. He has garnered considerable media attention for his forthrightness and honesty, as well as the notoriety he gained as a key player in Joe Clark's successful federal campaign.

"I refuse to give up on the concept that one person can help change the world in a little way, and that's what drives me. I apply that to any issue: health care, education, electrical deregulation, a gay man standing up in the legislature and speaking on the issues when the fact of his sexuality isn't the only issue. I either had to go to this level in

Calgary—and Alberta—or else move! I'm not crazy enough to think that, with two weeks left in the campaign, my opponent won't pull that [sexuality and HIV status] out as a weapon at some time."



Another strong figure in the so-called Joe Clark rainbow coalition, Keith Purdy is focusing attention on his own campaign in the relatively gay riding of Calgary Mountain View, just north of the downtown core. Purdy, as Co-chair of Pride Calgary, has not shied away from the spotlight as an openly gay candidate, and has earned the respect and endorsement of well-known New Democrat MLA Svend Robinson.

"I've worked for the last ten years with CUPE Local 8 and have been involved in the community with Pride Calgary, and I felt that now was the time for me to move ahead and take the step forward to show what leadership skills I had. I want to be a strong voice for the constituency that I serve and hopefully change a few things that they have concerns about. I know that the community is changing anyway, so there needs to be some strong leadership to bring it forward. My roots are in the labour movement in dealing with human rights issues and issues for gays and lesbians - that's where I started from, that's where I've grown from and that's where I hope to go in the future."

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February 6, 2001

Outlooks Newspaper
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Dear Outlooks:

Congratulations on your fourth anniversary.

This is yet another significant milestone for Outlooks. Outlooks magazine has clearly established itself as Calgary's premier gay and lesbian monthly publication. It succeeds as a source of useful information and entertainment for many, both within Calgary and beyond.

Best wishes for continued success.

Yours truly,

Gary Dickson

RGD/ps

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After the immense success we had with our civic election questionnaire a few years ago, we decided to approach political hopefuls, both incumbent and new, with a series of questions that would be of interest to our readers. These were sent out in a blanket fax-blitz to every registered provincial candidate in both Edmonton and Calgary, and returned to our offices by e-mail and fax. All candidates were asked to keep their answers to approximately thirty words per question. The responses you see below appear in their original state, without any text editing save that which was dictated by limitations of space. We hope you find their responses enlightening and, in some cases, amusing.

The Original Questions

1. Briefly list three changes you would bring about in Alberta if you were elected.
2. Would you support the use of the "notwithstanding" clause in regard to future gay and lesbian equality issues?
3. Do you think that there should be a gay equivalent to marriage?
4. Do you feel that equal rights for gays and lesbians are actually special rights or a threat to traditional family values?

Lorne Neudorf, Alberta Liberal Candidate – Calgary West

1. Put more emphasis on education, lower class sizes and stabilize tuition rates.

Ensure high quality, fast health care is available for everyone who requires it.

Advocate responsible government by giving a strong voice to my constituent's concerns.

2. From Alberta Justice, "The use of the notwithstanding clause results in the suspension of rights and freedoms protected by the Charter". It is an easy way for the government to discriminate; I would not support its usage.

3. Gays and lesbians should have a legal institution that recognizes and finally legitimizes their committed relationships. It is unfair to take away, purely on the basis of orientation, all legal rights that come with a serious union between two people.

4. Equal rights are not special rights. By treating gays and lesbians equally in our society we are definitely not threatening traditional family values. Is it a family value to discriminate, or to treat people unfairly?

Brian Huskins, Alberta Liberal Candidate – Calgary-Fort

1. Funding for Human Rights and cross-cultural education/programming should be increased with a goal of

raising levels of awareness, tolerance and understanding.

Repeal of Bill 11, the Healthcare Protection Act, which opens the door for public money to pay for services in private clinics; services which should be provided within the existing public system.

Entrench "sexual orientation" in Alberta Human Rights legislation; over two years since the Delwin Vriend case and no legislation has been passed that reflects the Supreme Court decision.

2. NO!!!! This clause was never meant to cover issues of minority rights within the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

3. This issue is soon going to be before the Supreme Court of Canada. I believe legislators must follow those decisions and act upon them. What is most critical in this issue is that public benefits be applied equally, whatever the "label" or "name" used to define the couple. With this equality comes certain drawbacks; for instance, a gay or lesbian couple where one is working and the other is on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) because of illness, those benefits would, in all likelihood, be lost because of combined family income.

4. This argument is based upon the "fear" that others will lose something. History has shown that this is not the case. Our society benefits from the equal treatment of all citizens and it is critical that every member be valued.

Katie Benschop, P.Ag., New Democrat Candidate – Edmonton-Whitemud

1. Legislation to guarantee equal treatment for all Albertans regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Extend the same employment benefits, parental leave, spousal supports and all other rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples as are now given to heterosexual couples.

Provide more resources to Alberta Human Rights Commission.

2. Absolutely not. Use of the

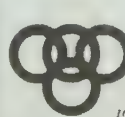
"notwithstanding" clause is in direct opposition to the equality provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Very regressive, repressive and reactionary of the Alberta government to even suggest this, and possibly illegal.

3. Definitely 'yes.' This is a federal issue; however, the provincial ND support the federal ND efforts to make this possible.

Continued on page 19

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Continued from page 18

4. Basic human rights for all people means that these rights are due to gays and lesbians in the same way as heterosexuals, and so they should not be viewed as "special rights"—rather ordinary, every-day rights that everyone enjoys. Intolerance and discrimination are not family values. Hate is not a traditional family value. All loving relationships are of value in this complex world we live in.

P.S.

I learned recently that the Alberta government as an employer does not extend family and spousal benefits to same-sex couples.

They are unique in Canada in this, and in Alberta the municipal governments, the universities, and other large corporations are more progressive and do offer these benefits to gay and lesbian couples.

I'd change this rule first—when I'm Queen of Alberta!

I'm on your side. Let's get those other guys out of their too-powerful position.

Guy Desrosiers, NDP Candidate – Edmonton Glenora

1. The Alberta New Democrats would place equality at the top of their agenda. The work of the Alberta Human Rights Commission should receive enough resources to ensure human rights complaints are not delayed and to allow it to expand its educational role.

Second, we would amend legislation to ensure equal treatment for all Albertans regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation.

Third, the NDs would support the extension of same-sex employment benefits, parental leave, spousal supports and all other rights and responsibilities given to heterosexual couples.

2. The use of the "notwithstanding" clause would be a serious affront to the equality provisions of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The NDs are on record as being adamantly opposed to the use of the "notwithstanding" clause. Those who advocate such a curtailment of human rights for lesbian and gay communities misunderstand the role of the Charter in Canadian society and damage Canada's reputation as an international defender of human rights.

3. Constitutionally, marriage lies within federal jurisdiction. Provincially, the NDs support full extension of spousal benefits to lesbian and gay couples. Federally, the NDP has been a frequent and vocal supporter of gay marriage. The provincial party supports the efforts of the federal party on this issue, in the face of strong opposition from the Liberals and the Alliance.

4. The New Democrats believe that intolerance and discrimination are not family values! Families in Alberta take many different forms, and the NDs believe that all loving relationships should be valued and supported by society. Those who make hysterical claims about "special rights" when discussing human rights for gays and lesbians are those that feel threatened by change. The New Democrats are not afraid of change or difference. We believe that diversity should be celebrated, not feared, and that human rights for all is a sign of a strong and vibrant society.

Dr. Harold Swanson, Liberal Candidate – Calgary Elbow

1. Repeal Bill 11. Take other initiatives to strengthen and adequately

fund public health care.

Implement the power to people plan to rationalize and stabilize electricity prices and supply.

Adequately fund public education to provide high quality access for all.

2. No
3. Yes
4. No

John Edward Logan, PC Edmonton Candidate– Strathcona

1. Increase funding support for Arts and Culture.

Eliminate the school portion of property taxes and homes.

Expand and improve Alberta's systems of parks and protected areas by setting aside ecologically questionable portions that represent all thirty-eight biogeographical regions.

2. No
3. Yes

4. The struggle for equal rights for gays and lesbians is underpinned by our collective responsibility as human beings to enshrine equal rights for all.

Brian Edy, Liberal Candidate – Calgary Buffalo

1. Make the human rights commission accountable to the full elected legislature, not just the government.

Specifically include sexual orientations in the list of prohibited discrimination under Alberta human rights law

Ensure adequate funding for public education—the very best tool to promote tolerance and understanding

2 No! The "notwithstanding" clause suspends the basic legal and human rights of citizens. It absolutely must never be used in a way that would permit or allow discrimination against anyone on the basis of sexual orientation.

3. Yes! I fully support the Alberta

Continued on page 20

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POLITICS

Continued from page 19

Liberal Party's hard work, (intensified over the last three years) to advocate for comprehensive domestic partnership legislation that recognizes rights and responsibilities of couples.

4. No! We each have a sexual orientation. Consequently equal rights for gays and lesbians are not special rights. Ensuring every Albertan is treated with dignity and respect only strengthens and confirms, and in no way contradicts the values of healthy loving families.

Kelly McDonnell, Liberal - Calgary Bow

1. Re. Bill 11

Increase school funding

Invest in long term projects for the future good of Alberta

2. I don't understand the connection

3. Yes

4. No

Nancy MacBeth, Leader - Alberta Liberal Party

1. Alberta Liberals believe that, at the dawn of a new century, Alberta

stands at the cusp of a historic choice. Alberta has been blessed with surpluses thanks to tremendous oil and gas royalties, providing an opportunity to vault the province ahead as the best place in the world to live and work for all. While the Klein government is planning on spending \$17 billion over the next five years (\$8,000 per person) on its disastrous electricity scheme, a MacBeth government would propose a new, low cost electricity plan that would halve rates for households and small businesses to 1998 levels, and save the surplus, providing \$15 billion to return to Albertans in tax reductions and improved public health care and education.

2. No.

3. Alberta Liberals recognize the principle of equal treatment for all common-law relationships in relation to benefits and obligations. In 1999 the Alberta Liberal Caucus introduced amendments to the Domestic Relations Amendment Act to recognize the variety of mutually supportive living arrangements chosen by Albertans, including same-sex relationships. At the time I stated that the proposals would treat all Albertans equally, recognize the freedom of Albertans to enter into a variety of mutually supportive long-term

relationships, and anticipate and avoid further Charter challenges. Accepting these amendments would mean the adoption of a model that can be used in revising many other Alberta laws that discriminate against some groups and individuals.

4. No.

Pat Murray, Liberal

Candidate—Calgary Currie

1. Put a stop to Tory "cronyism"

Put democracy back into Alberta politics

Put the Liberal platform into action

2. No.

3. It is within the Supreme Court of Canada's jurisdiction to rule on the legality of marriage, and I would support their decision.

4. No.

Garth Mundle, New Democrat

Candidate—Calgary Currie

1. Recind legislation allowing private, for-profit health care

Regulate gas and electricity rates

Increase funding for education

2. Absolutely not; I'm outraged the government would even consider such a move

3. Yes

4. No. It's a red herring scare tactic used by the government in power



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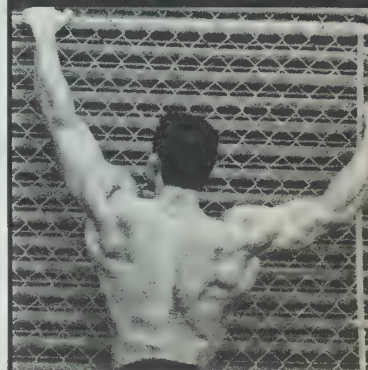
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February 7, 2001

Mr. David Crosson
Editor-In-Chief
Outlooks Newspaper
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Dear David

Let me offer my congratulations on your 4th Anniversary of publication. Your newspaper has become a mainstay in Alberta's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered community, and speaks well for it

I look forward to each issue

Be assured of my continuing support

Sincerely yours

Michael Phair
Councillor, Ward 4

MP:tm

LETTERS

In the article "Disclosure and Dating: The HIV Dilemma" by Brian Huskins [Outlooks, February 2001], he makes reference to a Supreme Court decision whereby a person who knowingly engages in unprotected sexual intercourse can be found guilty of aggravated assault. Do you know the specific case to which he is referring? Name and year would be helpful. I am in the process of writing a paper on the topic and would like as much information as is possible. Thank you,

B. Phillips

The Editor Responds:

The case that started the ball rolling was *R. v. Cuerrier* in 1998, and it involved a British Columbia man who was charged with two counts of aggravated assault after having sex with two women without informing either of them about his HIV status. The court ruled that it is a criminal offense for an HIV-positive person to engage in consensual sex without disclosing

his or her HIV status, a decision that caused concern with both the Canadian AIDS Society and the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network. These groups legitimately feared that people would stop being tested for the virus and use ignorance of their status as a defense. For more information on this, and other legal HIV/AIDS issues, log on to: www.aidslaw.ca.

Hey Outlooks,

I was a first-time visitor to the awesome city of Calgary. I am from Thunder Bay, Ontario, and let me tell you I felt so much more comfortable being who I am in your city. Your community seemed to take me in with open arms and I can't wait to come back. I also had a chance to meet your current "Don't You Wish?" boy while I was there. Hey, Mike! I'd like to thank GrabbaJabba, Boyztown, Tony and the boys for showing me such a great time. Lots of love; hope to see you all soon!

R.S. Cormier

We want your letters. Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to: **Outlooks, Box 439, Suite 100, 1039 17th Ave. SW, Calgary AB T2T 0B2** or email outlooks@cadvision.com

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Eminem and the gay Gestapo



By John Coulbourn

It's funny how current events can stir up memories.

For instance, the recent controversy over gay pop star Elton John's decision to appear with rap bad boy Eminem at the Grammy Awards has brought back memories of a dust-up I had with a self-important big man in both the Toronto theatre community and Toronto's gay community.

He'd programmed some rather questionable material in his performance space, stuff that—to the surprise of no one but him—offended some of the more

conservative elements of the community. And surprise, surprise, some of those most offended happened to work for the same paper that employs me.

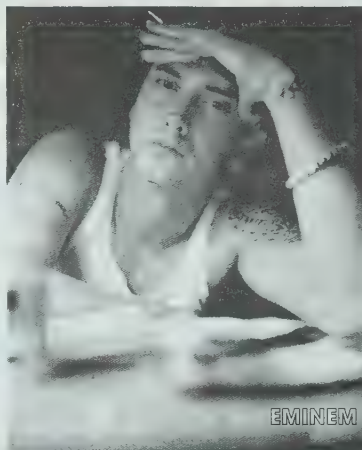
As things heated up, he phoned me, demanding that I take the heat off by attending one of his shows for review purposes, despite the fact that the show in question was clearly not part of my professional mandate.

But even though I tried to explain that to him, he was having no part of it, apparently and mistakenly believing that every journalist in the world is empowered to write about anything he or she feels like writing about as the spirit moves us.

Our "discussion" grew more and more heated until finally, he spit out: "If you don't get down here and review this show, you can't call yourself a gay man anymore."

Stunned, I was momentarily at a loss for words.

But only momentarily. Then the anger kicked in and I heard myself reply: "Hold on a minute, sport. You may be a queen, but you certainly ain't the queen. What gives you the right to revoke anybody's gay status?!"



(Note to anyone who's known me for any length of time: This is an expurgated transcript of the conversation, far more reflective of the genteel sensibilities of publisher Heale than of a newfound verbal delicacy on my part.)

At any rate, it was at about that point that our conversation ceased—whether he managed to hang up the phone before I did is immaterial but, rest assured, the line went dead.

Not surprisingly, I think, we haven't had occasion to speak since then, although you'll find quite a different version of this conversation in his recent autobiography, in which he casts himself as the star of the world and the rest of us as supporting cast.

But as the squeals from the gay community have grown louder over John's decision to appear with the potty-mouthed and homophobic Eminem (Melts in your mouth and not in your hand, remember), I've found myself recalling our spat.

Recalling—and wondering just what it is that makes some of the more self-righteous sisters in our brethren think that it is their right, their bounden duty, to determine just precisely what a gay person can or cannot do.

Now, let's be clear. As full and

participating members of society, the gay community has every right to question the propriety of Eminem's 'art,' although we might want to give some thought to the fact that, in the music business, controversy like this certainly helps to sell records, thus broadening Eminem's reach.

We have a right not to buy Eminem's records - and hopefully that is a right we'll each exercise to the fullest.

We even have a right to criticize the people who vote for the Grammys for honouring this talented little juvenile delinquent the way they have, although as a community, we might be well advised to look a little closer at some of our gay icons, before we get too shirty.

But we have absolutely no right whatsoever to demand that any member of our community—high profile rock star or busboy in the local greasy spoon—disassociate himself from Eminem, simply because we don't like what the rapper says.

As a community, we suffered for years because the larger community demanded that we behave in a certain way, both inside our bedrooms and out, despite the fact that the behaviour they demanded from us would have been totally against our natures. To turn around and start imposing the will of the majority of the gay community on our own minorities would imply, at the very least, that we are every bit as socially repressive as the Victorian society that we've fled.

As a community, we've won a right to be heard, but if we can only keep it by suppressing the same right for others, whether we agree with them or not, we've not won anything at all.

God knows, we don't need a gay Gestapo.

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

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Looking at love and lust

By Lorne Bradley

It appears that when I wrote my column for Valentine's Day and mentioned love and lust distinctly, it sparked a few questions and comments from readers. I enjoyed the feedback that the article generated, and this month I'll dive right into the discussion on sex. Is it love or lust?

What is love? There are nine definitions in Merriam Webster's dictionary for the word, none of which are satisfactory. Despite being extremely useful for a number of other applications, the dictionary is just not that good for defining emotion. Obviously, love is subjective, and is different for each of us, but it shares certain universal characteristics. It is often defined as that "warm, fuzzy feeling" we get when we truly care for another person. In order to distinguish love from lust, we must ask a basic question: can one be in love without having a sexual relationship? I believe this is completely possible. It was not

too long ago where couples would marry without having a prior sexual relationship, and I doubt one could say that their proclaimed love for each other would be insincere.

On the other hand, can we separate lust from a sexual relationship? Back to the dictionary which defines lust as being an "intense or unbridled sexual desire". Sex is the root of lust, for one lusts to be sexually involved. According to one infamous study, the average adult human male entertains a sexual thought of some description once every twenty-three seconds. Whew! If this is even remotely true, then I'm sure we have all experienced lust at one point or another.

I have heard routinely within the gay community that "sex is just an act," seemingly a reason to be lustful at every opportunity. I do agree that sex is just an act, like sneezing, marriage, or even murder. It is the psychological attachment that we have with certain acts that give them meaning - a psychological attachment of lust or love. Sex can be a reinforcement and a beautiful expression

of love, but people can also have sex while remaining detached from any other meaning for it.

Love is really an emotion that covers the whole spectrum of being with someone, from sharing an ice cream cone to the desire to live together. Love is not sex, although it may include a sexual relationship. Lust, on the other hand, covers only one portion of that spectrum: sex. Lust asks for one part of a person, and is oblivious to all other emotion and concerns. Lust is an easy (and often frighteningly acceptable) way for people to ignore other emotional aspects of sharing an intimate act with someone.

Everyone has experienced lust and, hopefully, they will experience love as well. There are those who can easily shift from a psychological attachment of lust to love with sex, and there are those who find this difficult. What is more satisfying and meaningful? Just ask someone in love and they will tell you, "Love wins every time!" Yeah, you caught me ... too much McMaster & James!

I enjoy receiving your feedback! E-mail me at lorne_bradley@hotmail.com with your comments, questions, or ideas for the next youth column.

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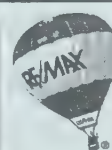
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T R A V E L

Gay island paradise



VIEW FROM PATIO OF OCEAN BEACH INN

By Roy Heale

If your idea of the perfect vacation is a small Caribbean island with beautiful gay beaches, fabulous restaurants, gay bars, nightclubs and inns, a tropical climate with mild trade winds and gay-friendly locals, then Puerto Rico is the place for you. Whether you're travelling alone, with friends or looking for a romantic get-away with that special person, this island has everything for a perfect time.

You'll need to pack your sense of adventure, because Puerto Rico is only one hundred miles wide and approximately thirty-five miles deep, with every region providing a new and different experience. The north side features Atlantic Ocean surf, while the south embraces the calm, blue Caribbean, which provides variety to suit every beach lover. A tropical climate ensures the lowest recorded temperature of 68° F and the highest of 97° F, 365 days of the

year. Sounds like paradise—many, including Ricky Martin, will tell you that it is!

Rich in history, the island was discovered by Christopher Columbus just over 500 years ago, and the culture is a mix of Taino Indians, Spanish settlers, African slaves and the more recent North American migrants. The old towns of San Juan (in the north) and Ponce (to the south) provide a step back in time with old world charm, Spanish architecture and fascinating walking tours. Charming fishing villages are all around the coastline and, inland, the El Yunque rain forest, Rio Camuy cave park, the Central Mountain range and forests all provide an endless variety of day trips. Renting a car is a must, and once you leave the San Juan area, finding your way around the island is a breeze.

Choosing your home-away-from-home may not be easy, as the choices are numerous and diverse. First, you need to decide whether you're staying on the slightly more commercial north side of the island or the very natural under-developed south side; perhaps you'll opt for a combination of the two. The latter is my recommendation if you have two weeks or more for your vacation. In the north, close to the airport, there are three main choices: Old San Juan, Condado and Ocean Park providing a wide range of hotel types and prices.

Historic Old San Juan offers traditional American chain hotels and some smaller Spanish-style pensiones. However, this does not make for a "beach holiday" and seems a waste after travelling all the way to the Caribbean. I suggest you save this for an afternoon or two of history and shopping.

Condado provides a choice of large high-rise hotels and slightly smaller gay

and gay-friendly hotels. Here you will find the largest, gayest hotel on the island, the Atlantic Beach Hotel and, not surprisingly, a gay beach. Some of the rooms will give you a breath-taking view of the ocean and one short flight of steps will put you right onto the gay beach. Just around the corner is the smaller Embassy Guest House, with a beautiful swimming pool overlooking the ocean. Both of these hotels are gay (except for the odd accidental tourist) and close to all the bars and nightlife.

My personal choice is the Ocean Park neighbourhood, with smaller guest houses and another very gay beach just a fifteen minute walk to all the nightlife. Here you have three main choices for a place to stay: Ocean Beach Inn, Numero Uno and L'Habitation. Price and style of room will probably come into play as you make your decision on which to choose. L'Habitation and The Ocean Beach Inn are modestly priced, while Numero Uno is slightly more expensive and has more of a hotel atmosphere.

The rooms at Numero Uno are very modern, with bar fridges and some overlook the gay beach. The outside beach cafe is a must-visit spot and the swimming pool is refreshing on a hot day when the ocean is a delight for surfers only.

The Ocean Beach Inn provides a cozy, intimate atmosphere with comfortable rooms and a lush tropical courtyard. Host Patrick will be more than happy to provide you with local information to make your stay as gay and pleasant as your wishes demand. Some rooms boast ocean views and kitchenettes are available.

L'Habitation is slightly larger with a beach bar but less personable attitude. The rooms are simple and adequately sized but very few have an ocean view. Here you will also find Antonio, the masseur, who will help you to relax and forget city life very quickly. He will also come to any of the hotels if you don't want your massage on the beach with the sounds of the surf in the background. All three include a continental breakfast and weekly room-rate specials.

My choice was the Ocean Beach Inn, with an ocean view room and a small

kitchenette. This proved to be a wise choice and the friendly, helpful atmosphere provided by host Patrick and the other vacationers made it a perfect place to unwind. Having cocktails with the other guests on the patio, overlooking the ocean as the sun sets, makes a relaxing end to the day and a great beginning for the night's festivities. Breakfast in the dining room seemed to be a prime time to swap stories from the night before over a cup of strong coffee. It doesn't get much better than this!

When it comes to nightlife and dining, this island has it all. You'll need a copy of the local gay newspaper, the *Puerto Rico Breeze* (email: tkoonetz@pr-plaza.net, phone: (787) 724-3411), which lists almost everything around the island in terms of gay entertainment. In San Juan, Condado and Ocean Park, you are within walking distance or a very short cab ride to most of the bar scene. The Atlantic Beach Hotel has an open patio bar, which is where most people go in the



NUMERO UNO

early evening for happy hour or the traditional Sunday afternoon T-dances. If you begin your evening here, everything else is close at hand. Disco Eros is probably the main attraction from 11p.m. onwards and, with the name of a Greek god and the entrance facade of a Greek temple, you can only imagine what delights await inside. There are many local bars and pubs, after-hours clubs and other forms of entertainment to keep you happy, no matter how long your stay or what your tastes may be. Most of the gay accommodations will provide you with a map highlighting the gay and gay-friendly places to go, and the owners and staff possess a wealth of information.

On the south side of the island, the gay scene is centred around the village of Boqueron, where it is slightly quieter and more of an escape from commercialism. In old San Juan you will find three or four gay bars, gay-friendly restaurants and shopping. This is a major stopping point for the cruise ships and you will find the narrow streets full of bargain hunters. As this is a duty-free port, you are certain to satisfy your shopping desires, although



DINING ROOM AT OCEAN BEACH INN



EL YUNQUE RAIN FOREST

Continued on page 27

Continued from page 26

you may have to hunt around the side streets to avoid the tourist souvenirs and find real bargains. Also, in San Juan you will find the Steamworks on a quite, residential street; here you can enjoy a very upscale bathhouse with every amenity and a non-stop flow of tourists and locals getting to know one another.

Around the island, every imaginable outdoor sport is available, including surfing, para-sailing, fishing, S.C.U.B.A.

diving, snorkelling, golf and hiking. Simply strolling along the gay beach for a day or night cruise is also a great option. If sightseeing is your preference, this island is rich in Spanish history and offers lighthouses, mountain climbing, cave tours, quaint fishing villages or the tropical rain forest.

Even though there's no Ricky Martin mansion or museum to visit, his look-alikes are *everywhere* with that same Latino smile, good looks and open, friendly nature. You can be sure of a

warm, hospitable gay welcome in the island paradise of Puerto Rico. Shorts and t-shirts are acceptable everywhere and casual is the order of the day, *everyday*, so pack your bags and prepare yourself for a gay old time in the tropics—you won't be disappointed.

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Vogel & North pioneering partners



By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

In the straight world, love and marriage may go together like a horse and carriage—at least that's what the old song says. But marriage between people of the same gender is still far from common, and legal acceptance by the rest of society is a battle yet to be won.

The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) has been joining same-sex couples in holy unions since 1968, and there was considerable eastern media hoopla earlier this year when it was announced that the Toronto branch of the MCC would marry one gay couple and one lesbian couple, skirting around the Ontario Marriage Act. They did this by having the banns read in church on three separate occasions.

Rev. Brent Hawkes, of Toronto's MCC, claimed the Ontario Marriage Act didn't refer to gender but to persons, so he could legally marry the two couples provided no one raised serious legal objections during the reading of the banns, which is an ancient Christian custom. The Ontario registrar would be obliged to accept this quite legal marriage.

Despite the banns and the wedding ceremony, the Ontario government was having none of it, and the Registrar General refused to register the event. As promised, the couples are now suing the government and the case will likely end up in the Supreme Court.

Provincial governments usually pass the buck to the federal government, claiming Ottawa is responsible for defining marriage and, so far, it has been defined as the union of a man and a woman.

Though Toronto media trumpeted the MCC banns reading and the weddings as historic and ground-breaking, they were dead wrong. Back in Winnipeg, the glaring headlines brought a wry smile to the lips of Chris Vogel, long an activist on gay rights issues. He had a distinct feeling of *déjà vu*; been there, done that. Long ago.

Clearly, there's nothing new under the sun, even if Toronto The Big still believes the sun shines out of its you-know-what. Vogel, a resource planner with the

Manitoba government, married his sweetheart Richard North on February 11th 1974. At the time, Vogel was twenty-seven and North, a cabinetmaker, was twenty-three. They had the banns read at the Unitarian Church, had the wedding and reception and have been together ever since.

"Back then, the gay community in Winnipeg wasn't very organized and I don't think we even had a club," Vogel told *Outlooks*. "Richard and I had been together for a couple of years and we decided to marry as an act of public education and also to further the process of law reform for gay rights."

The couple was refused a marriage licence by the provincial registrar, but were encouraged to have the banns read by Unitarian minister Rev. Norm Naylor, who was supported by the church's board of directors. Despite the fact that some congregation members objected to this revolutionary development, Vogel and North even took the regulation marriage classes and Vogel's work colleagues took up a collection and bought them silver goblets.

"We pretty well devised our own ceremony and promised to stay together not 'til death did us part but 'as long as love shall last'" Vogel recalls. "We had open communication and also decided on an open relationship, even though that *did* upset the minister and he tried to dissuade us."

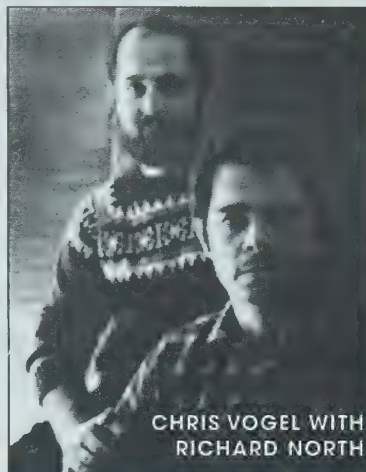
In fact they have had "little affairs" over the years, but the relationship remains strong. "We are each other's best friends," says Vogel. "I think we have proven that marriage need not be an oppressive prison, provided you enter into it in a liberal and generous spirit."

When they married twenty-seven years ago on a cold Monday evening, the media was kept in the dark about the event—with the exception of one CBC radio reporter:

"She was getting married herself and we trusted her, so we allowed her to tape the event," says Vogel.

Once the ceremony was over, they served guests Sangria, then went on to a private party and took up housekeeping as a married couple. Vogel says everyone was very nice to them, but the registrar refused to recognize the marriage so they went to court. "The statutes didn't actually designate the gender of marriage partners, but the judge went to common law and decided only a man and woman could marry," says Vogel. "We lost our case but at that time it was no surprise."

He is confident that gay marriages will be recognized by the state sooner rather



CHRIS VOGEL WITH RICHARD NORTH

than later.

"I wish the Toronto couples well, and I am still amazed by how the speed of change and gay acceptance is accelerating," he adds. "Society's recognition of a couple's marriage is an important emotional and social support which heterosexuals have taken for granted. It's important because it's a time when friends and family come together to understand who you are and to

celebrate your love."

Vogel got involved with the Council On Homosexuality and Religion in 1978, and became an activist in advancing gay rights. "The council would channel gay people to sympathetic ministers of their own denomination and many holy unions were quietly carried out, including Catholic ones," he says. "These unions were done with no publicity, because ministers didn't want to attract the attention of bishops and church authorities."

In 1982, using the Manitoba Human Rights Act, Vogel and North began a long legal battle against the Manitoba government to ensure Vogel's partner could receive full spousal benefits and pension rights, just like Vogel's heterosexual colleagues. They finally achieved full victory in 1997, twenty-three years after they tied the knot.

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for Macleans and The Financial Post. He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.

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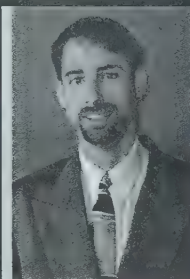
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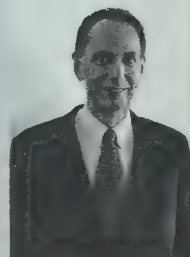
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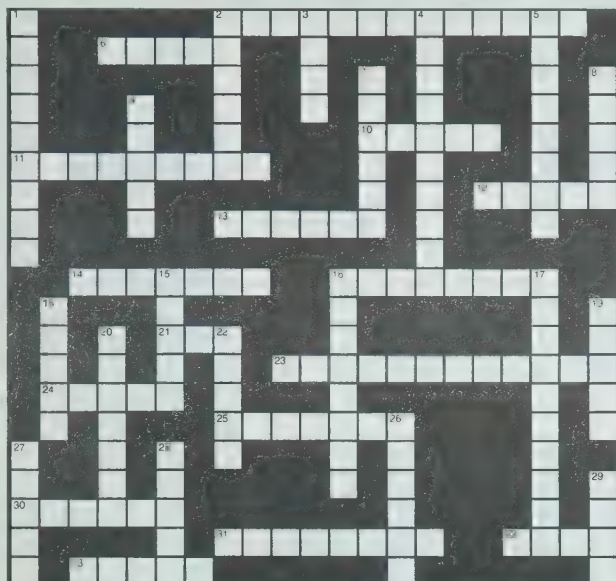
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clues & words by Outlooks staff
answers on Page 47

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- 12) Ellen's mom, to her friends
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- 2) Caesar's most noteworthy betrayer
- 3) Don't You Wish's edible accessory
- 4) Calgary jewellery designer seen on page 42
- 5) Genetic multiples featured on March 2000 cover
- 7) One of modern computing's founding fathers
- 8) Drew, Walker or MacBeth
- 9) Edmonton market with Gallic name
- 15) We're entering our _____ year of publishing
- 16) Felt-topped table, also known as pool
- 17) Ricky Martin's home colony
- 18) Former Don't You Wish? & PC youth leader: Kyle _____
- 19) Parter of seas or Canadian media mogul Znaimer
- 20) The Canadian Gardener: David _____
- 22) This community group will soon hold its AGM
- 26) Canada's queer cook Ken
- 27) 80s detective or large champagne measure
- 28) Ralph or Calvin
- 29) Queer TV host: Irshad _____

DOWN

- 1) One of the world's largest homo websites (written out)

Leader, Progressive Conservative Party of Canada
M.P. Calgary Centre, Alberta



Chief, Parti progressiste conservateur du Canada
Député de Calgary Centre, Alberta

The Right Honourable Joe Clark, P.C., C.M.P.
Le très honorable Joe Clark, C.P., C.C. député

Ottawa, Ontario
23 February 2001

To the readers of *Outlooks*,

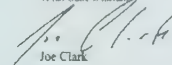
I know you will all join with me in offering sincere congratulations to *Outlooks* newspaper on four years of successful publication.

Outlooks is a valuable member of the publishing community, serving all readers alike gay or otherwise - on issues that are timely and newsworthy, entertaining and thought provoking, and always interesting.

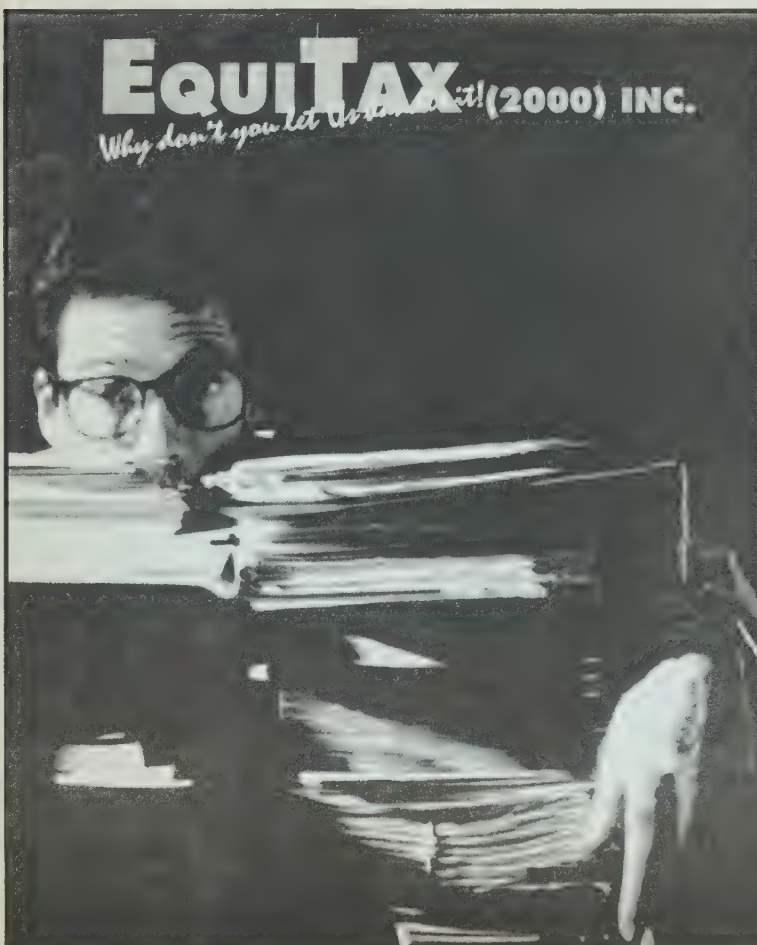
I am particularly proud that this national publication is home grown in Calgary, serving the entire country.

To the publishers, editors and writers of *Outlooks*, keep up the good work, and please accept my sincere hope you have many more exciting years of journalistic success.

With best wishes,


Joe Clark

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AIDS CALGARY
awareness association

By Collin Smith

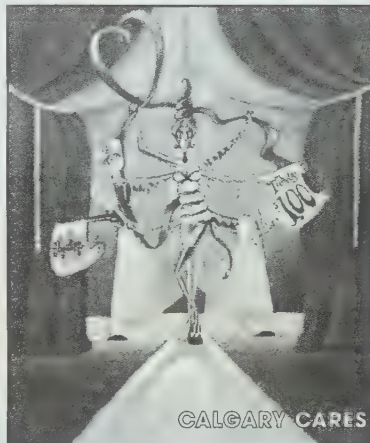
Through my work in the gay community educating people about HIV/AIDS, I've had many people ask me how they can help. This month, we have two ways of contributing to our community and the fight against HIV/AIDS. SMED International and AIDS Calgary are holding the annual gala fundraiser Calgary Cares on Saturday March 24th, and The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association is holding its annual AGM on March 26 at 7 p.m., in the common room of the Old 'Y.'

The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association has been an important part of this community for many years now and they continue to offer the phone line and drop in peer support service that they are famous for. This is an important resource for the city and a great way to find out information about our community. You can call (403) 234-8973 in the weekday evenings to access the association's extensive database of community resources.

The GLCSA has also been moving into new areas of service for Calgary's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community and support groups for men, women and youth are running throughout the year. The Men's Project and Safe Spaces work to prevent the spread of HIV in our community. The Unity Pages are an important resource for finding gay-

and lesbian-friendly businesses in the city.

Calgary Cares is one of Calgary's premiere fundraising events. For eight years, it has been one of the spots to see and be seen in Calgary. This year's show is entitled *A Cheeky Affair*, and will feature Calgary's cheekiest show, as well as delectable delights from Calgary's restaurants and beverage companies, all of which culminates in an electric, high-energy dance party.



The money raised at Calgary Cares enables AIDS Calgary to continue to offer programming in the areas of support, community outreach and information and training to people infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. By

The community gathers



THE MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group is a safe place for men to talk with their peers about life's issues.

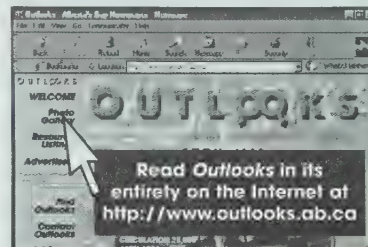
Call GLCSA for more details 234-8973

Mondays

7:00pm - 8:30pm

Upstairs at Money Pennies 1742 10 ave SW

Sponsored by The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association & The Men's Project



GLCSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Gay and Lesbian Community Services Association has been an important part of our community in Calgary for years. This month, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting (March 26, 7 p.m. in the common room of the Old 'Y'), a chance for members of the community to find out more about the GLCSA, contribute to the direction of the association and become involved.

There are a number of ways that you can become involved with GLCSA. This is the time of year when we elect new board members and we are looking for energetic members of the community who would be interested in working with us. It's your chance to find out what the GLCSA will be offering over the next year.

For years now, through our phone lines and drop in nights in the evenings, we have been providing one-on-one support for members of the community. You can reach us by calling (403) 234-8973.

However, the GLCSA has become much more than just the phone lines. The Inside Out Youth Group, the Men's Group, Sheq for women and the Bisexual Group are a number of the programs that we offer on a regular basis. The organization also runs Safe Spaces, an HIV/AIDS education program aimed at gay and lesbian youth. You may have seen the youth-oriented "OK" campaign in areas around the city, in areas where youth hang out.

The GLCSA has also partnered with other community harm-reduction agencies such as AIDS Calgary, Calgary Birth Control Association, Planned Parenthood of Alberta, Calgary Ravesafe and Safeworks. We have also assisted Feather of Hope in developing a youth website that will provide access to services, information and fun for youth in Calgary. The GLCSA is working to make sure there is a safe space for gay and lesbian youth to access these services as well. Check out www.youth4youth.com for more information.

We continue to publish the Unity Pages, a directory of the businesses and services in the community; it is an important resource for locating gay- and lesbian-friendly services around town. This information is also available online at www.glcsa.org.

The GLCSA is in its third year partnering with AIDS Calgary to provide HIV/AIDS education and prevention to the gay men's community through the Men's Project. Check out our monthly page in this publication for information on men's health issues.

Volunteers are also an important part of our organization and there are many different volunteer opportunities available at the GLCSA. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact our volunteer coordinator Arizzona at (403) 234-8973 for more info.

For more information on any of our programs or if you are interested in joining our board or volunteering with the agency, please contact us. We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on March 26.

SYPHILIS CONCERN IN THE COMMUNITY

Since November 2000, we have diagnosed active, infectious syphilis in nine Calgary men. Of these, six had active lesions of early syphilis, two were found as part of the anonymous partner notification process, and one man recognized the rash from the last article in *Outlooks* and came in for evaluation at the STD clinic. In addition, many men were concerned about rashes or genital sores, and came for testing. In these other cases we were able to reassure these folks that they did not have syphilis.

We are concerned that there may be gay men in Calgary who have been in contact with syphilis, but may not be aware of their exposure. Although this is a totally curable infection, it is dangerous because the person may not experience any symptoms at all, even though the infection is still present. Untreated syphilis commonly leads to neurologic problems such as stroke and dementia (similar to Alzheimer's disease) or heart problems. Our intention is not to create unnecessary anxiety about this, but to ensure that we get the message out to all potentially infected men so that they can access treatment and eliminate any chance of serious health consequences in the future.

Although several of the people with active syphilis had direct connections with Internet or telephone services for meeting anonymous partners, several did not. We are recommending, based on what we know about the risk of getting syphilis in Calgary, that any gay man having had sexual contact since the summer of 2000 should get blood drawn for syphilis testing, so that curative treatment can begin.

For more information on Syphilis or testing please contact the STD Clinic at 297-6584.

For more info on Calgary Cares check out www.calgarycares.com

IN THE NEWS



Despite the odd and quite unavoidable cold snap, Albertans are now waking from their winter hibernation in anticipation of spring. To celebrate this much-awaited seasonal change, David Tarrant wants to show everyone the "seedy" side of life, and all the rewards it can bring. Best known as the personable and knowledgeable host of CBC television's *The Canadian Gardener*, Tarrant is one of this country's foremost authorities on all things green. And 'green,' in the case of his feature presentation for the 2001 Edmonton Home & Garden Show, does not only apply to plants.

With the rising cost of energy, pre-grown bedding plants are going to become more and more of an economic issue for all Canadian gardeners out there. Tarrant has teamed up with Mother Nature to offer a perfect and cost-effective solution: seeds. With a bit of careful planning and some

simple maintenance, these little botanical treasures can result in a glorious garden - all at a fraction of the price incurred by hothouse-grown bedding plants.

This concept also lends itself perfectly to the plans Get Growing host Ken Beattie has for bountiful backyards. The Edmonton Home & Garden Show will be abuzz with garden gossip and juicy tidbits, as one of Canada's most colourful horticulturalists spreads the word like mulch. Beattie's "secret garden" of knowledge has been gathered from age-old gardening lore, the stories that our grandparents swapped to keep bugs at bay and flowers growing, well - like weeds! Beattie will tell visitors to the show who's in bed with whom - the flower bed, that is - or at least who should be. Companion gardening is the time-tested creation of a healthy garden through pairing mutually beneficial botanicals together, for both growing purposes or pest protection. What can often be mistaken for folklore is actually based on sound scientific principle, and Beattie will be on hand to enlighten and amuse as he dishes the dirt on "significant others" in the world of companion gardening.

Both of these entertaining and informative green thumbs will be appearing at the Edmonton Home & Garden Show at the AgriCom in Northlands Park, from March 22 to March 25. Be sure to stop by and help your gardening knowledge grow.

-By Outlooks staff



AIDS CALGARY awareness association

AIDS Calgary would like to congratulate Outlooks on your fourth anniversary issue, and thank its tremendous and ongoing support of the community. Best wishes for continuing prosperity and keep on making waves in Canada's gay community.

www.aidscalgary.org



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CALGARY

Community Groups

AIDS Calgary.....	2900
Buck Naked Boys Club.....	2028
Calgary Men's Chorus.....	2043
Calgary Networking Club.....	2460
Camp 181.....	2001
Different Strokes Swim Club.....	2058
Fairy Tales, Film Festival.....	2054
Fem to Fem Social Group (for women only).....	2050
Gay Fathers.....	2090
GLASS.....	2222
GLCSA.....	2052
I-Identity.....	2036
Illusions.....	2454
Integrity.....	2020
Men's Domestic Conflict Help Line.....	2030
Men's Project.....	2016
Metropolitan Community Church.....	2010
Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation.....	3220
PFLAG Calgary.....	2018
Pride Calgary.....	2850
Real Me.....	2056
Rocky Mountain Cruisers Car Club.....	2022
SHARP Foundation.....	2830
Society Housing AIDS Restricted Persons.....	2830
Speak Sebastian.....	2024
Team Calgary.....	2870

Urban Sex - Radio Show.....	4200
Victorian Matriarchal Academy.....	3210

CALGARY

Businesses

11 St Lodging.....	2450
Arena Coffee Shop.....	2432
Arena Nightclub.....	2437
Aural Pleasure Entertainment.....	2092
Backlot.....	2438
Detour.....	2434
Jane Oxenbury, M. Ed, Psych.....	2820
Jeffery's Boudoir Photography.....	2500
Keith Swedish Massage Therapy.....	2452
Loading Dock.....	2436
Money-Pennies.....	2444
Rainbow Pride Resource Centre.....	2440
Randy Harris, Clinical Social Worker.....	2448
Victoria's.....	2430
Westways.....	2420

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EDMONTON

Community Groups

Buck Naked Boys Club of Edmonton.....	2040
Dignity.....	2012
Gay Men's Wednesday Coffee Evening.....	2021
GLCCE.....	2860
Kairos House.....	2047
LEGIT Edmonton.....	2017
Long Yang Club.....	2025
Men's Support Group.....	2042
Northern Titans Bowling.....	2031
Outreach (U of A).....	2029
PFLAG.....	2045
Police Liaison Committee.....	2038
Prime Timers of Edmonton.....	2044
River Valley Cyclists.....	2032
The Curtain Rises.....	2880
Womonspace.....	2041
Youth Understanding Youth.....	2023

EDMONTON

Businesses

Cosmetics by Karen.....	2525
Labyrinth Lodge.....	2060

LETHBRIDGE

Community Groups

AIDS Connection Society.....	2015
GALA/LA.....	2014

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- Enter the four-digit Xtension number.

Instructions: To obtain an Xtension for your group:

- Call Outlooks at 228-1157 (Outside Calgary 1-888-228-1157)
- We can also help you with any problems in changing your Xtension messages, reporting outdated Xtensions, or answering your questions.

REVIEWS

As I write this edition of Webutante, Valentine's Day rapidly approaches. I'm reminded of red velvet hearts, chocolates filled with gooey caramel, a pink-bottomed cupid—and sleaze! Coincidentally, the latter is also filled with something gooey. With that in mind, let's proceed:

The recurring theme at www.gregwebsite.homestead.com is "getting pounded," and the host is not talking about a boxing match. Well, not technically anyway. Greg is a hustler—

U.S., Ted Matthews is a porn veteran and treats his sex-for-cash business like the unapologetic profession it has become. Because he's a man after our hearts and pocketbooks, it's very difficult to get anything out of the site unless you become a member—it's only \$20 USD per month, after all. Uh-huh. For that amount of money, Ted should be giving me a blowjob every month. In an interesting example of cross-market synergies, it also appeared as if you must join his website in order to hire this hot guy for an evening's worth of "company." Hmmm, do you at least receive a rate discount? Jeesh! According to our man Ted, he's a "very muscular and well-defined bodybuilder." He also says that he "looks fantastic in a tuxedo or a Speedo," and has a "perfect 8x5 cut tool." Did I

mention that he's "the most reliable escort in LA?" Mercy, what a catch. Oh, by the way, he's a top—could you tell? Bossy bitch.

Instead of an all-Ted site, might I suggest the massive database found at male4malescorts.com. This site, devoted to the world's oldest profession, makes a promise to be "Honest In Our Judgments & Truthful In Our Reporting." What, does Mike Wallace run this digital brothel? The site's brainy creators have created a link on the home page to kwikmed.com, where you can order your favourite party favour: Viagra. A portion of your purchase will go to support male4male escorts. Nifty, huh? Since the site is free for viewing, they also ask for donations, much like an Episcopal church, but with release. Being the responsible purveyors of sex that they are, they also post BOLD warnings concerning the potentially deadly combination of Viagra and poppers—don't try this at home, kids. The site navigates beautifully. For U.S. customers, a map is provided and you simply need to click on the state of interest for a listing of the, er, professionals in that zone. Now here's the best part: not only are photos and stats available, but the site posts client reviews! And the escorts can respond! Oh honey, you can't imagine some of the catfights I read. The fur. Was. Flying. An aside, and as a former resident of Calgary, I couldn't help myself—I had to click on the international section, drill into Canada, and see what was available

in my former stomping grounds. As there were only two escorts listed for Cowtown, I would have to assume it's a seller's market. With all the pent-up demand, there is a niche there just



begging to be filled (and it's not just the niches that need filling). So, for those college boys at U of C still undecided on their major, might I suggest you consider this: the noblest (or is that oldest?) profession of them all. I was sorely disappointed that Ken and Peter, the two gentlemen listed on the site, had no photos available. I was dying to find out if I had unwittingly been a "gratis" customer during my sojourn in the foothills of Alberta. BTW, "Ken" is a 28-year-old top, 5'9" and 150lbs, with brown hair and brown eyes. He comes highly recommended...

The site www.zthing.com is (yawn) another subversive destination on the web that just skirts the edges of political

correctness. But wait, this one is actually worth checking into. I was particularly drawn-in after I saw the message "join or we'll shave this kitten" which is accompanied by a delightful cartoon graphic of a plug-in razor taunting an oh-so-cute little feline. A collection of moderately funny to quite hilarious vignettes awaits visitors on the homepage. I immediately dove into Oops, I Farted Again by Britney Spears, a song that features an "explosive" remake video where a man in a spacesuit continually offers the nubile princess a box of Beano. What are she and Justin eating? Too many Wow Chips, honey? Even more "distasteful" is the revisit to Madonna's Music video, that imagines the first lady of Scotland as a human Pez dispenser popping out babies. This comic book-rendered icon later goes on to utter this thought-provoking line: "Sometimes I express myself and feed them later." Hmm...

Ok, this isn't so much sleazy as it is creepy: www.classmates.com is the site to investigate if you want to contact old friends or stalk old enemies from your high school days. I was shocked to find ten people registered for my graduating

Continued on page 33

the webutante

by Darren McInnes



er, sorry, an "escort" based out of L.A.; which apparently has more escorts than any other city in the U.S. I knew L.A. had to be the best at something. Greg's ad formerly claimed he was Australian—this has since been dropped (at the behest of the Australian embassy, no doubt). His website claims he's a 9" top and hard 24/7. I'd hate to see his Viagra bills. Unfortunately, the best portion of his site



was recently edited out: choice stills from a home movie that Greg and his "pussy-boy" recorded in early January. The dialogue was classic machismo from the Jeff Stryker school of monosyllabic dirty-talk (i.e., he said "bitch" about a dozen times, and he wasn't referring to his Afghan Hound, either). Topping this—if you'll excuse the pun—was the electronic form Greg had created where devoted fans could name him as the sole benefactor of their estates! The nerve! The gall! The sheer, rent-boy brilliance!

Much less sleazy, and therefore much less fun, is the site of escort extraordinaire. Ted Matthews (www.tedmatthews.com). Apparently one of the most successful escorts in the

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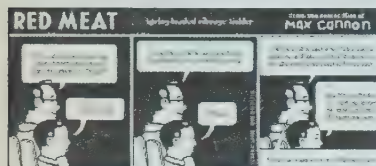
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11 pm

year at Yorkton Regional High School in Saskatchewan. I even remembered some of them! Oh, dear! For a gold membership of \$30 USD per year, you can add bio information, post a pic and e-mail those memorable boys and girls that shaped (warped?) our young minds. The big question for many, of course, is why



would you possibly want to revisit those dreadful, painful, miserable years? After all, it's not important where you come from, baby, it's where you are now. That's what I thought the other night when I was rubbing shoulders with Bjork at a fabulous Fashion Institute of Technology party for *Visionnaire* magazine and those brainless jock idiots from my graduating class were cleaning the mites from the fur of their knuckles.

They say too much red meat isn't good for your heart. What the surgeon general hasn't told you is that it does wonders for the funny bone. Believe me not? Drop into www.redmeat.com and become a convert. The inventor of this decidedly left-of-centre cartoon as socio-political statement site is "Max Cannon" (if that is your real name). To say Max

has an "offbeat" sense of humour is like saying Cher has had "some" work done. With regular characters that include Johnny Lemonhead, Ted Johnson, Milkman Dan and Mister Wally, Cannon skewers societal norms and intellectual complacency with precision wit. When you're done pursuing the nasty 'toons, order a T-shirt for yourself. My favourite features "Milkman Dan" and youngster "Karen" with Karen uttering, "I hate you milkman Dan." Express yourself, indeed.

Darren McInnes is director of Finance for SFX Entertainment in New York. His work also appears in Instinct and Frontiers.



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GLCSA

Gay & Lesbian Community Services Association

The "Men's Group" meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. upstairs at Money Pennies, 1742 10th Ave. S.W.
The "Inside Out" for youth between 16 and 25 meets every Monday 7:00 p.m. common room, Old Y 223 12 Ave., S.W. The "Bisexual Networks" meets 1st Thursday of each month 7:30 p.m. in the GLCSA office. "SHEQ" meets each Thursday at GLCSA. For info call 234-8973

Available: Kids & Adult T-shirt, Adult Tank Tops, call GLCSA 234-8973

Peer support Sundays 2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. & Monday to Thursday 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering or would like posted an event on our events calendar please call us at 234-8973.

Annual General Meeting Monday February 26, 2001, main meeting room floor 233-12th Ave SW, Calgary, Alberta.

(403) 234-8973

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Message from Anne McLellan
Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Member of Parliament for Edmonton West

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate *Outlooks* newspaper on its fourth year of publishing.

I commend the management and staff at *Outlooks* newspaper for putting together what, I am sure, will be another entertaining and informative issue. The gay community plays an important role in our society in helping to build stronger and more tolerant communities in Alberta and across Canada.

Again, please accept my congratulations and best wishes for *Outlooks* continued success.


A. Anne McLellan

Canada

OUT & ABOUT

In Edmonton



(LEFT) "GENTLEMAN COLLAR":
Buddy's own Morgan, candidate for Mr. Gay Edmonton



(ABOVE) TRIPLE THREAT:
(From Left) Max, Marsha Black and Scott strike a friendly pose



(ABOVE) LAW MEN:
(From Left) Michael, a visitor from Virginia, with Sergeant Caribou and Boris, sharing a bit of "cop-araderie"



(BELOW) BUDDY'S BUDDIES:
(From Left) Greg, B & D Emporium manager Stephen and Bart at Buddy's Fetish Nights



(ABOVE) A NEW LEASH ON LIFE:
(From Left) Morgan, Christen and Steve, showing how good things really do come in threes



(ABOVE) LEATHERY BRETHREN:
The "bonds of friendship" at Buddy's Fetish Night



(ABOVE) LANGUAGE ARTISTS:
(From Left) Grant MacEwan english instructors Jack Robinson and Bill Thompson with writer/publisher Candas Jane Dorseys



(LEFT) STORY TIME
Vanilla and Other Stories author Candas Jane Dorsey addresses an english class at Grant MacEwan College



Message from the Mayor



In Edmonton, there's never a lack of exciting ways to get involved. That's one of the many reasons why our city stands out as a great place to live

Congratulations to everyone involved in producing Outlooks for the past four years. Keeping a newspaper topical and interesting is a significant task. May your hard work and commitment continue for years to come.

On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, I extend best wishes to everyone involved in producing Outlooks

Yours truly,
Bill Smith
Bill Smith
Mayor

Planning an event in Edmonton?
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Photos By Steve Welland and Dave Thompson



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A Message From Nancy MacBeth, MLA Leader, Alberta Liberal Party

On behalf of the Alberta Liberal Party, I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the management, staff, contributors, advertisers, supporters and readers of Outlooks Newspaper on the occasion of its fourth anniversary.

Outlooks performs a valuable service for all Albertans by informing and entertaining its readers and by helping to build bridges of understanding between communities in Calgary, Alberta and across the nation.

Please accept my sincerest best wishes for continued success.

Yours sincerely,



Nancy MacBeth, Leader
Alberta Liberal Party

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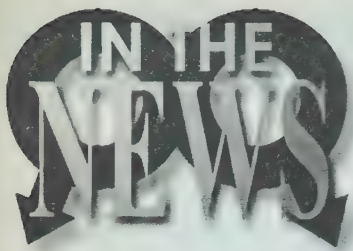
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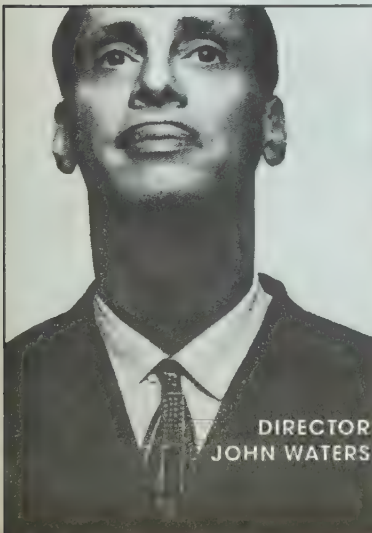


You know you've really made it when you've guest starred on The Simpsons. In a career that has spanned almost three decades, director John Waters has gone from being a cinematic outlaw (complete with cult-status credentials) to one of Hollywood's most distinctive auteurs. Historically, Waters is best known for the raunchy Divine vehicle Pink Flamingos and, more recently, for the Melanie Griffith/Stephen Dorff hit Cecil B. Demented. Although he was once arrested (along with two of his stars) for indecent exposure, Waters now rubs shoulders with Tinseltown glitterati - or at least those with a good enough sense of humour to star in his films.

Edmonton fans will get a chance to rub their own shoulders with the William S. Burroughs-dubbed Pope of Trash when Waters presents his one-man show Shock Value: An Evening With John Waters on March 18. This special appearance is part of the 15th annual Local Heroes International Film Festival, a celebration of independent film which takes place from March 16-23. Other special guests besides Waters who will be attending Local Heroes are former Edmontonian Anne Wheeler (director of Better Than Chocolate, Bye Bye Blues and Cowboys Don't Cry) and Road To Saddle River and DaVinci's Inquest producer Arvi Liimatainen. This eight-day festival of film, pub chats, seminars and galas is a high point in Edmonton's cultural calendar, and not to be missed. For more information on Local Heroes' many events and activities, log on to:

www.nsi-canada.ca.

-By Outlooks staff



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U-571: The gay film that wasn't

By Sean McLennan

It's dark and damp. Within the tin canister that you're confined to, all you can hear is the laboured breathing of your anxious shipmates and the "ping" of the sonar as it indicates the slowly sinking depth charges, the violent explosions of which echo outside. You wait as they draw closer, bringing destruction with them.

This description pretty much encapsulates the feel of *U-571*; it's your typical action film, set during WWII. It's all right if that's what you're looking for, if you can get past the patriotic American flag-waving, and if you like your boys in uniform. The plot (such as it is) centres around capturing the German "Enigma machine," a typewriter-like device that was used by the Nazis to encode and decode transmissions during the war.

In choosing the very worthy subject of the Enigma machine's critical role in WWII and the Battle of the Atlantic, it is unfortunate that writer and director Jonathan Mostow chose to usurp and obscure history. He could have used his film as a venue to exhume the near-forgotten role played by arguably the most influential person of this century: Alan Mathison Turing (1912-1954), who also happened to be gay.

U-571 gives one the strong impression that a) capturing the Enigma machine was the bulk of the task in decoding the German transmissions and b) that it was the Americans who played the crucial role. Both of these ideas presented are blatant misrepresentations of the truth. The structure of the machine itself was widely known and variations were in use throughout Europe long before the start of WWII. What made the Enigma so powerful was that it had several wheels that could be inserted in different orders and orientations, creating a huge number of possible encoding schemes. These settings were changed regularly by the Germans, which made developing a way to determine which scheme was being used an arduous task at any given time; the triumph over this belonged to the mathematicians and cryptanalysts, not the soldiers.

Work on decoding the Enigma machine began long before the Americans declared war, and even after their entry. The U.S. played no role in actually decoding it. Early work was done primarily by the Poles who, in 1939, passed their advances on to the British, including a brilliant young scientist, Alan Turing, who was responsible for their eventual success. It is often speculated that the Allies could not have won the war without the advantage of being able to read the Axis' transmissions. In that sense, if it wasn't for



Alan Turing, you might have been reading this article in German (in a different paper that didn't focus on about being gay!).

So, perhaps you're not convinced that Alan Turing has directly affected your everyday life. Let's then forget about his role in WWII and take a look at some of his other accomplishments, like, oh, modern computing. Turing laid the foundational theory behind the modern computer and is considered, if not the outright inventor of this device, then one of only a few founding fathers. Every one of those machines that now pack our homes, offices and pockets is an example of the infamous "Turing Machine," the original theoretical construct with which Turing proved his principles and invented concepts like "software" and "programming."

Moreover, he was the first to outline what it would be for something to be "artificially intelligent." Turing did this not by trying to define what constitutes intelligence (a definition still up for grabs), but by describing a clever imitation game that a machine would have to exhibit real intelligence to win. The "Turing Test" is still a hot topic (and, of course, controversial) in computer science, cognitive science, philosophy of the mind and the inspiration for programs and competitions world-wide—many fuelling / fuelled by research and development in the computer interfaces that we deal with on our own computers.

Alan Turing's influence doesn't stop at cryptography, computer science and math—it also extends through other natural sciences like biology and chemistry. But it does become less direct and more obscure, partly because we haven't really been in a position to appreciate some of what he has done until now. He was truly a future visionary ahead of his time. For example, Turing's papers on morphogenesis (essentially the growth and development of living things), are experiencing somewhat of a renaissance as the brilliance of his

insights are finally being realized. They have strongly influenced the relatively new studies of non-linear dynamics and complex systems which, in turn, are helping us to understand everything from weather patterns to fatal development, from social behaviour to the stock market. (Think of Jeff Goldblum's character in *Jurassic Park*—that's the kind of stuff he studied.)

Scientists tend not to be as well known as other celebrities because, well, they're rarely as beautiful, well-spoken or exciting, and it's often hard to understand what they do. But surely you've heard of Louis Pasteur, Albert Einstein and Steven Hawking. Thomas Edison? Alexander Graham Bell? Marie Curie? Chances are, unless you've studied computing theory or cryptography, you've never even heard of Alan Turing, even though he has had at least as dramatic a cultural impact as all the people mentioned above.

Some believe that Turing's lack of notoriety stems from the fact that much of what he did, certainly during the war, was classified top secret, and that air of secrecy kept him out of the public light. But none of it is classified now—and think about it:

top secret information going public, critical players in war, machines that think—this is stuff that the media goes nuts for!

I believe that Turing's name isn't as well known as some others simply because towards the end of his life, Alan Turing was very open about his sexuality. And most people in the '50s really didn't want to be forced to acknowledge that one of their greatest war heroes, one of the most brilliant scientists of our time, was a big fag.

"Coming out" had, for Alan Turing like for many of us, a catastrophic impact on his life. Same-sex relations in Britain remained illegal until quite recently and Turing was arrested in Manchester (ironically, considering it was the locale of the original *Queer as Folk*) in 1952 for a violation of that nature. Instead of denying the charges or making any sort of appeal, Turing not only admitted his guilt, but supplied a detailed account of his relationship with his partner, and courageously spoke out against the injustice of the law. The law was not swayed and, in lieu of a jail term, he was

Continued on page 39

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sentenced to a course of estrogen injections (of all things!) to "neutralize his libido." The treatments, which lasted a year, left him impotent and caused him to grow breasts. Much of Turing's academic work continued, but he was no longer able to work for the government—security clearance was not granted to "known homosexuals" because of the national security risk (?). He remained quite open about his sexuality and his criticism of the government's policies among his peers; however, as one might imagine, the Manchester of 1950 wasn't quite as open as the Manchester of 2001.

On June 8, 1954, Alan Turing was found dead by his cleaning lady, a half-eaten apple dipped in cyanide by his side. There was no warning, he left no statement of intent and, despite his mother's belief that his death was accidental, the coroner felt it was an obvious case of suicide. Turing's intimates felt that he had overcome the turmoil of his conviction and subsequent treatment, and the reason why he took his own life is debated. Honestly, can there really be any doubt? Alan Turing was driven to his grave by the lack of acceptance of homosexuality—and the rest of us are the worse for it. As a scientist, he was just entering maturity—possibly to achieve his greatest work—and that will forever be denied us.

Tragically, the community who should

be lauding the name Turing, along with DaVinci, Michelangelo and Wilde, doesn't seem to know him at all. I've never seen a gay bookstore that carried his biography, *Alan Turing: The Enigma*, even though the author, Andrew Hodges, is equally out and gay and a scientist for whom Turing was a role model. This is a state of ignorance that we should remedy, not just to honour a man who has given our century so much, but for our own edification as a community, for our own public image and for our own sense of history.

So, try to spare a moment's thought for Alan Turing the next time you sit down to deal with your e-mail or hear mention of the Allied victory in WWII. And if, gods forbid, you do decide to rent *U-571*, the gay-film-that-should-have-been-but-

wasn't, at least be openly derisive and loudly point out that, as usual, Hollywood has distorted the truth.

For more info on this remarkable man, check out:

<http://www.turing.org.uk/turing/>

Sean McLennan has a degree in Linguistics from the University of Calgary and he's currently working towards a PhD in Linguistics and Cognitive Science at Indiana University. In between research, classes, and teaching, he does web-design, writes for a Japanese English-learning magazine, and is active in a local GLBT education group.



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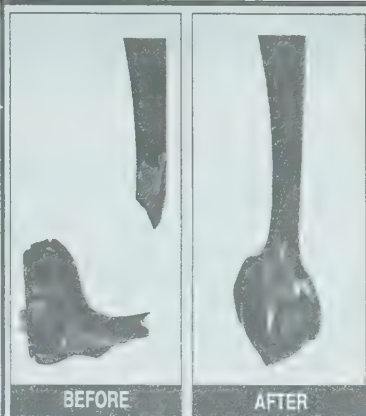
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February 9, 2001

Dear Outlooks,

Thank you to the staff and readers of Outlooks for four years of solid work in fostering diversity, tolerance, and understanding.

As the M.L.A. for Edmonton-Centre, I take great pride in representing a diverse, straight, and GLBT community. May we all look forward to a more accepting joyful future.

Best wishes for your 5th year of publishing and may there be 50 more!

Sincerely,

Laurie Blakeman

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Paris in springtime

By Norm Sacuta

Christine Miller is no stranger to laying out the interior of a building to suit the feelings and needs of particular clients. Formerly an interior decorator for Edmonton's Chintz and Co. (a store that's



pretty much on every upscale queer's Saturday morning shopping list), Miller identified what she thought was an unfilled niche on the downtown Edmonton scene, got together with a business partner (Angela Larson) last summer, and came up with The Paris Market, the latest eclectic addition to Edmonton's re-emerging downtown.

The Paris Market is located in the Mercer Building on the corner of 104th street and 104 avenue. Built in 1907, the rundown warehouse has had a number of incarnations over the past twenty years, including acting as host to a number of notorious hell parties in the mid-1980's. Most recently, however, the building has remained vacant on a street designated by the City of Edmonton as significant for its concentration of red brick warehouses from the turn of the century. With the 1914 Phillips Building, just up the street, recently evicting its artist tenants, 104th street's historic warehouses seem poised for demolition, rather than preservation, as Edmonton's boom finally begins to emerge.

Miller's initiative with the Mercer building may, however, bring a bit of stability—and hopefully a few developers with vision—to a downtown sorely in need of proper, considered development. The Paris Market anchors the North end of the 104th street historic district, and if it can generate money for the area may emerge into the only walkable part of downtown. And with the Roost nightclub next door, and a new gay-friendly bar (Fly) a half block away, Miller also recognizes the importance of her gay clientele.

When you first enter the market you'll be excused for thinking you're in a wonderful maze. The participating

retailers have simply laid their wares out on tables, in nooks, and crannies throughout the main floor—this is not the locale for small children, unless you want to pay for what they break! The wood beneath you creaks as you wander through aisles of antiques, retro jewelry, wicker furniture, paintings, incense, soaps and bric-a-brac. The first thing I looked at was a cabinet, circa 1850, made by Manitoba Mennonites.

Miller is looking to expand the market as more clients show interest in opening booths and stalls there, and she is temporarily expanding to the second floor for an art show she has entitled, simply, Exhibit A: a gathering of art in a landmark loft environment. She is encouraging local artists to enter the show for a fee of \$20.

Outlooks spoke with Miller about her reasons for setting up the market and how things have been going.

Outlooks: When did the Paris Market first open its doors?

Miller: July 15th of this past year.

Outlooks: And what made you decide to do it?

Miller: Well, I just thought, what could I do that was different and that nobody else was doing; what niche can I fill? There was the farmer's market [in Old Strathcona] going full tilt, but there's also a year and a half wait to get in there. So I thought, why don't I start my own market, a little more upscale than a general flea market? Provide the people who are waiting with a place to go while they're on the waiting list. So we gathered together a whole different mix of people and just did it. It was either going to be called the Soho Bazaar or the Paris Market.

Outlooks: And how was it that you decided to settle into this building in particular?



Miller: Once I chose the name, I looked for a building that was suitable, that gave an old-world image, and this was one of the last ones still standing that had a high profile.

Outlooks: So, at the moment, does the market only cover this first floor?

Miller: Yes. The market itself is only

on this floor, but what I'm starting to do with the landlord's permission is to move upstairs for special events. The space is open for charity fundraisers and we've formed the Paris Market Society. Our agenda is the preservation and proliferation of creative outlets. So my very first Paris Market project is called Exhibit A, and that goes on March 9th, 10th and 11th. It's an art exhibit upstairs. Anyone may enter—there's a twenty-dollar registration fee and it goes directly into mailout and promoting the event. That's the first event, and so far I have about thirty or thirty-five artists who have purchased space.

Outlooks: You mentioned a niche market—what do you think your niche market is here?

Miller: Well, one of the vendors described it as "people who aren't really sure where to go come here" [Laughs]. I have a lot of people who test-market their products in this space. So people who aren't willing or ready to take the step to lease their own space, use mine—very low overhead, and very low commitment for them—to test out their products, test out their merchandising, test out their sales skills. There's a real mish-mash of people who want to do something—sometimes they're not even fully sure of what they want to do.

Outlooks: So tell me about some of your vendors. Are there openly gay vendors here?

Miller: I think everyone feels very comfortable being involved here. There's a general open-mindedness to the market and I've never seen any problems with openly gay customers. Probably over half of the male vendors here are gay, and that's great. I was actually approached by a lesbian who wanted to come in and sell gay pride products, and she said she didn't know where else to go. She'd been turned down by other markets, and I just said "Come on in". I couldn't care less! She was more than welcome to sell her stuff.

Outlooks: Well, urban downtowns tend to be areas where gays and lesbians congregate. Do you find there's a large number of gay customers here?

Miller: There's a very large gay clientele and I'm *thrilled!* [laughs] They like different things, they have money to spend, and they love to shop.

Outlooks: What are some of your favourite things here?

Miller: Love the antiques. Was it *Outlooks* that did the article on Soapstuds?

Outlooks: Yes.

Miller: Well, Soapstuds have some of my favourite things here. And they're very charming young men. I love the art, the youth culture in the back, and rave

clothing. Anything goes here—that's my philosophy. I'm not going to turn anything down, because I don't feel the public has anything to be afraid of.

Outlooks: The last question is about the street and the neighbourhood—a bit of a political question, actually. 104th Street is trumpeted as one of the last historic streets in downtown Edmonton. Do you see yourself—because a number of warehouses in this area have already been ripped out—becoming active as a member of the local community to try to point this street in the right direction?

Miller: Yes, I think our being on the corner of the street is actually really important. Are you familiar with Fly nightclub? Well, they're opening right across the street and they're described as a gay-friendly bar. They said one of the reasons they went in here is because they saw that we were here. They think this street is really going to turn, and that's why they've moved in. They're also going after the gay clientele as well, and they know



this is where gays are going to be hanging out. But it's very different from the Roost. I took a look at the place last week and its planning to open February 23rd. We're planning to work a lot together. I hope to be hosting fashion shows there and there will be a lot of promotion between us.

Paris Market is located at 10363-104 Street, Edmonton, right beside the Roost nightclub. There is parking behind the building, but be aware if you park at the meters on Saturday, you have to plug them. Artists interested in Exhibit A should phone Christine Miller at 424-2511.

Norm Sacuta is a writer living in Edmonton. His articles, reviews, fiction and poetry have appeared in Alberta Views, Prairie Fire, NeWest Review, The Globe and Mail, and many other publications. His first poetry collection is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2002.

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Josh has just returned from a year in Australia and is back working as an actor and dancer. He'd like to wish Outlooks a Happy Anniversary

Photographed on location at a birthday party by Simon Brown

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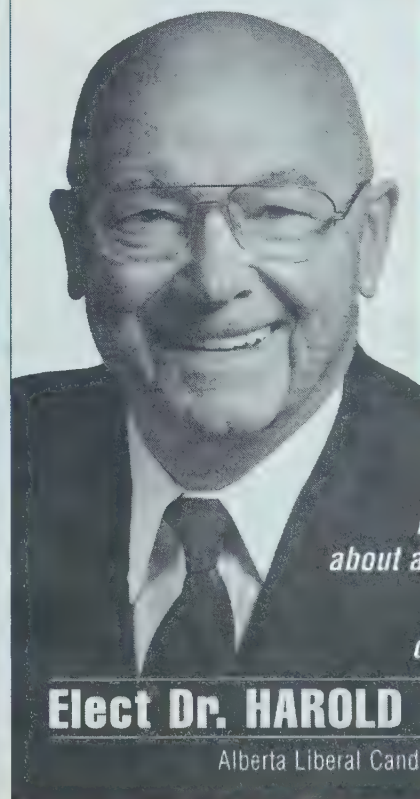
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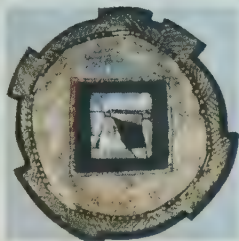
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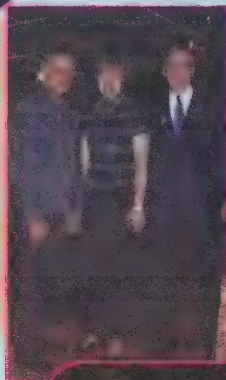
(LEFT) WELL WISHERS:
(Left) Boyztown bartender David spreads the love around with Rainbow Pride Resource Centre owner Kevin Marriot

(BELOW) THE NIGHTCLUB CLUB:
Rooks owners Lee and Ren share a laugh with Boyztown's Sharon and Dean

(BELOW) POLITICAL PARTY-GOERS:
(From Left) Alliance MP Preston Manning, *Outlooks* Associate Publisher Bill Brooks and PC Leader Joe Clark at the third annual Bill Brooks Prostate Cancer Fundraiser



(ABOVE) THESE ARE THE PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD:
(Left) Ren and Lee celebrate the opening of the new Beltline location of Rooks



(LEFT) A LIBERAL OUTLOOK:
(From Left) *Outlooks* Publisher Roy Heale with Liberal Leader Nancy Macbeth and her husband Hilliard Macbeth



(RIGHT) LOOK AT ME I'M SONDRAS, DEE:
Jewellery designer Dee Fontans (right) with Hyatt party-girl Sondra at the Bill Brooks event

(BELOW) BEAMING BENEFACTORS:
(Left) Victoria Haines with Vancouver fashion consultant Stephen Rozon



(ABOVE) A HAPPY OCCASION:
(From Left) Prostate Fundraiser attendees Andy Stephenson, Lori Benjamin and Murray Carey



(ABOVE) DIVAS IN TRIPPLICATE:
(From Left) Kerry Wilson with Ellen and Allison MacGregor at the Bill Brooks fundraiser



(ABOVE) SISTER ACT:
Prostate Cancer Fundraiser founder Bill Brooks (left) with Steering Committee member Jerome Pinnsonneault

(BELOW) SMALL CHANGE... BIG CHANGER:
Sherry McCrae, wife of late Small Change... Big Changes founder Lorne McCrae at the Pig Party Gala



(LEFT) CHICK MAGNET:
Richard of Boyztown flanked by a couple of fine feathered friends

(RIGHT) AFTER HOURS:
(From Left) *Outlooks* Webmaster Brendon Turner with Sales Assistant Kevin Persaud



(BELOW) ROCK STAR:
Hair Guru David Stewart lends an air of hard-edged glamour to the Small Change... Big Changes Gala



(BELOW) THREE LITTLE PIGS:
(From Left) Small Change... Big Changes organizers David Chare, Alan Senneker and Peter Grobauer at the Gala



(LEFT) WE THREE KINGS... OR IS THAT QUEENS?!
(From Left) Randy, inaugural Don't You Wish model Chad and Hal Lyttick at the Pig Party



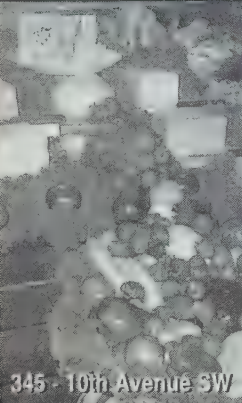
(LEFT) COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS:
(Clockwise from top) Troy, Brett Taylor, Michele Flynn and Lorrie Murphy at the Hyatt for Small Change... Big Changes event



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Running Time: 110 minutes.

For young Dean O'Conner, life in a small Wisconsin town is very unsatisfying. He dreams of being an artist, but is much more likely to become a farmer. Even though a small town sometimes has its advantages, for an eighteen-year-old who is just coming out, it seems to be the wrong place at the wrong time. However, everything changes for Dean when he reads about the skater parks in L.A. and sun, palm trees, and Hollywood are suddenly where it's at for him. The skater park capital of the world is calling and Dean

is ready to follow his dreams.

After a three day car ride, Dean arrives in L.A. and finds a small room to rent on the beach. His next step is to find a skater park, and this is easily accomplished. A group of hot, young skaters (with their cute leader, Tony) is on hand to make Dean feel very welcome. Dean knows that sex and skating go hand in hand, so there is no surprise when he discovers the men's room seems to be a favourite place for these young men to take an unusually long break.

Two by two, these hot skaters reveal their incredible bodies. Youth and innocence make these rollerbladers sexually attracted to one another without any inhibitions. However, with bodies like theirs, it's no wonder they want to strip down in order to show off. Naked youth is on Dean's mind and these skaters provide him with his ultimate fantasies.

When it's Tony Donovan's turn to visit the washroom, the title of this movie becomes very apparent. It's easy to see why he's the leader of the pack and everyone looks up to him in this gay fraternity. Dean realises he's made the right choice and coming to the big city is just what he needed, especially if the massively hung, nineteen-year-old Tony is going to be a part of his new life.

Available for \$49.95 on DVD or VHS.

Review sponsored by Express Video, #202 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, (780) 482-7480.

Email: exec.express@v-wave.com

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

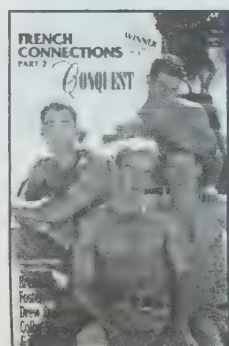
MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★



FRENCH CONNECTIONS PT.II "CONQUEST"

From: Falcon

Featuring: Brennan Foster, Drew Damon, Colby Taylor, Christopher Scott, Luc Jarrett, Ross Vincent, Addison Scott, Guy Philippe, Thom Barron, Jared Wright, Wolff, Jens Hammer, Luc Herrault, Matt Skyler and the Mystery Masked Man.

Running Time: 90 minutes.

Brennan Foster is having car troubles and is stranded on a country road just outside of Paris. Luckily for him, along comes Drew Damon in his reliable little Renault and Brennan secures a ride home to his father's country chateau. However, Brennan's luck has still not completely turned around, as the butler tells him that his father has cut him off from the family riches and he's no longer allowed to live at

the chateau. Yet again, Drew comes to the rescue and offers him a place to stay. The poor little rich boy is grateful for being rescued and knows *exactly* how to show his appreciation. As soon as they arrive at Drew's small apartment in Paris, Brennan takes charge and Drew instantly submits. When Drew removes his pants, Brennan realises the pleasure is all his and Drew's enormous manhood is an added bonus to his rescue from destitution. When Drew is exhausted he falls asleep, and Brennan realises his playboy lifestyle is not fair to Drew and that he has to leave before this kind and generous man awakens.

Brennan heads off to his favourite nightclub haunt to re-unite with his wilder friends; what follows is a series of sexual escapades showing just why Brennan has a reputation as a party animal. This all-star cast of Falcon superstars provides an incredible glimpse into the kinky, sexual life that

Brennan enjoys and gives the viewer an idea why his previous relationships have not worked out.

However, Brennan realises it's time to settle down and he returns to Drew's apartment. At first Drew gives him a cold reception, but Brennan's charm wins him over and they end up trying to make it work together. Drew Damon's incredible body and huge manhood would probably make *anyone* want to give up the nightclub scene.

Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre, L 100 822 11th Avenue SW, Calgary, (403) 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★★

SET: ★★★★★

BODIES: ★★★★★(★)

STORY: ★★★★★

ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

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Dear

Dear Freddy,

I know there are a lot of people out there who think that white briefs are really hot, but to me they just look creepy. The guy I just started seeing wears them all the time and it completely freaks me out. Any ideas about how I can get him to "change his underwear"?

Boxer Boy
Calgary

Dear Boxer,

Are you called "Boxer Boy" after the trunks-like unmentionables you favour or do you have the face of a boxer (ie: appear to have been beaten repeatedly about the face and neck)? If it's a case of the latter, you should thank the gods that you're getting along at all. Anyway, back to the matter at hand: your boyf's briefs.

While I find it hard to believe something that's as harmless as an undergarment could cause you so much grief, I do sympathize. I once had a date turn up in one of those icky nylon webbing collars and I couldn't get my

wormy thing out no matter how hard I tried and—sorry, I've digressed.

Why not give him a pair of boxers as a gift and then compliment him on how handsome he looks in them? Actually, I'm a bit surprised to hear that, if this is a *beau nouveau*, you're seeing him in underwear at all! Whatever you decide to do, if you convince him to give up the gonchies, have fun with it: try putting those discarded undies on some poor, unsuspecting animal (a goat, perhaps?) or sell them on the Internet. Or, better still, put them on your head and pretend you're a naughty nun getting down and dirty with a cute Cardinal... something like that. Good lord, do I have to come up with *all* your kicks?! Now get back at it and see just how fine those pesky undies can look on a bedroom floor.

Hugs,
Fred

Dear Freddy,

I am writing you out of concern for a response you gave to someone last month about their "treasure trail." I think your answer was mean and an insult to the more hirsute members of our community. Some of us *do* like body hair on our men—treasure trails and more—and it was insensitive for you to employ a personal bias in answering a question. I, for one, actually get turned on by back-hair, so does that make me some kind of deviant

in your books? Well, if it does, then fine: I'd rather be hairy and happy than some miserable, in-denial-coz-I-have-hair-all-over pup.

Big Bad Bear

Dear Bad,

Mercy, who peed in your roots and berries this morning? Talk about throwing a big hairy fit! Actually, genius, this is *my* column, so forgive me if I employ a personal bias when answering questions. Have you ever noticed that it says "Dear Freddy" up top and not "Dear Big Bad Bear"? Hmmmm, maybe that's because no one wants to hear advice from back-hair fanatics, or something like that.

Actually, Big Bad, I worry about you—what if your curly thatch of chest hair gets tangled up like Velcro in the back-hair of your partner during your next hot session? You could be stuck together like the antlers of two battling elk, your rotting remains found wrapped in an acrylic duvet when springtime comes. Wouldn't the tabloids have a field day with that one?!

With regard to your question about being a "deviant" in my books, the answer is 'yes,' but that's not a bad thing. All deviants on file in my books receive a Christmas card annually, as well as a fruit basket on their birthdays. Lucky you! All the more reason to be hairy and happy...

Regards,

Fred

P.S. I'm not in denial about having hair all over me—my species is *supposed* to, silly!

F.

Dear Freddy,

I have a slight problem...actually, it's a drastic problem that is affecting my entire life. When I was about twenty years old, my length was approximately eight inches. I was known for making my partner scream in pleasurable pain. Now, at the ripe age of 32, I have been reduced to a whole of 6 inches. Where did my two inches go??

If you could please help me, I would greatly appreciate any advice. Is this a common problem?? Is this something that is physically possible or is it all in my "HEAD"?? Speaking of head, my partner has noticed it shrinking as well...are we just crazy?? Oh, Freddy, please help me!!

Sincerely,

Shafted and Shrinking

Dear Shafted,

Hmmm—you've got me stumped (Ha!) Could it be a low-level case of leprosy? Have you been leaving more than a piece of your heart with lovers? My advice: pull it like saltwater taffy and hope it grows back. Try rubbing it with a salamander first.

Cheers,

Fred.

Write to me, Dears!

All letters become the property of *Outlooks* and are subject to editing.

Write to: Dear Freddy,
c/o *Outlooks*, Box 439, Suite 100,
1039 17th Ave. S.W.
Calgary, AB T2T 0B2
or e-mail to outlooks@cadvision.com

Correction Notice:

The Review of *MasterStrokes "Gay Erotic Art Brought To Life"* in the February issue of *Outlooks* was sponsored by and available at Rainbow Pride Resource Centre.



In Loving Memory



John H. Dart, Jr.
June 27, 1955
to
March 17th 1996

Look well all
those who love
all lovely things,
the hour is, but
the hour has wings.

FRIENDS

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A gay partner wanted. Are you a kind-hearted, easy going, personality who would love to establish a long-term relationship with a black british guy? Can you accommodate or travel? If yes, then get in touch for a nice time. Age and looks are not necessary. Write to Yaw Owusu, 8 Sharon Avenue, Kelloe - Durham DH6-4NE England

I am looking for honest gay guy for long-term relationship. If yes, write to me. Kofi Abbey, PO Box 141, Sun Yan - B/A, Ghana - W/A

Young Black Guy 24 years, good hearted, healthy, clear. I'm looking for love to share my life. I am tired of being alone and I hope I will have the chance to meet someone special. Kwame Fei-Chinneboah, PO Box 1672, Sunyani, B/A, Ghana, W. Africa.

I'm searching for a caring cool mature sensitive romantic man to share my life. Me slender muscular tall black boy with average beauty 24yrs needs you for permanent relationship, can travel. Abrefa Gyan, PO Box KS 8854 Kumasi, A/R Ghana, W/A

I am African gay guy, looking for someone to share my love with. If yes write to me. Kofi Abbey, Box DC 110, Dansoman, Accra, Ghana W/A

Black, attractive gay, 20 years, really handsome guy, submissive, versatile in bed, with smooth attractive chocolate body. Visiting Canada soon, seek genuine gay partner seriously for long term relationship, age unimportant. Philip Baidoo, P.O. Box 620, "Starlets 95 Street" Sunyani — Ghana

Black African boy, 19, cute sexy with slender fleshy chocolate body. Desperate, need man for long term relationship. Age unimportant. Mumuni Issifu, Box SY-803, Makaveli Square, Syi-Brong Ahafo, Ghana — West Africa.

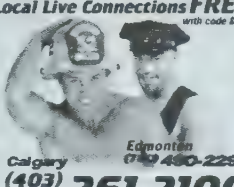
Discover the black boy—I'm slim, tall, sexy, open-minded, genuine, submissive, versatile in bed, 24 yrs (African) with smooth toned body, seek a Canadian man my age who is sincere for long term relationship, am ready to accommodate or visit, let's give love a chance now. Contact: Mr. Charles Sarkodie, P.O. Box DC 110, Dansoman Accra, Ghana W/A

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Cute slim dark guy, 22 yrs, need a sincere companion to settle down. No one night stand please. I can travel. Quarne Taylor, Box DC110, Dansoman Accra, Ghana W/A

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AIDS Calgary's premier fundraiser is looking for ticket sellers for this all-inclusive March 24th event. Sell 9 tickets - receive 1 free. For more information please contact: David Howard @ 543-1509.

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The Cutting Edge Gay Men's Hockey Club is hosting Défi Coast to Coast Challenge in Vancouver this Easter, April 12th to 15th. We can accommodate individuals or teams. For more information, go to www.thecuttingedges.com. We are looking forward to having fun with you this Easter.

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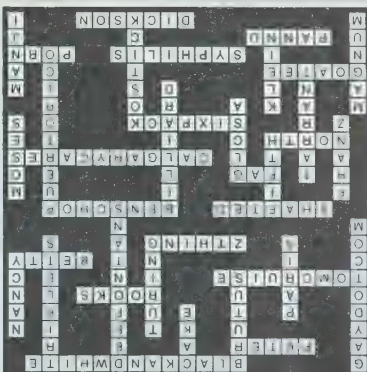
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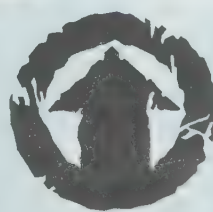
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Happy Anniversary, Outlooks!



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Edmonton: Roost, Buddies,
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Precinct 55, Georgia Steam Bath and
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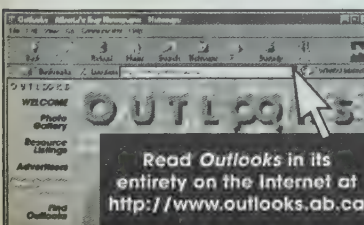
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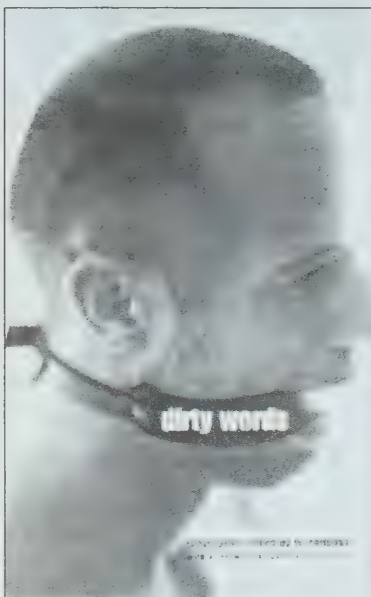
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REVIEWS



Dirty Words: Provocative Erotica by M. Christian
Alyson Publications

Review By David Crosson

There are times when I wonder if the only thing gay writers are capable of producing is erotica. For every argument of

"We're not just about sex!" there seems to be a box of review-copy books that supports a contrary position. This is not to say, mind you, that there is a dearth of non-erotic gay fiction writers out there, it's just that I rarely ever receive their books.

As it is with anything (food, art, clothing, fill in the blanks), taste in literature is nothing if not subjective. When it comes to erotica, it is doubly so. There are some writers who, through the sheer brilliance of their work, transcend the boundaries of taste and genre in a way that appears almost effortless.

M. Christian is one of them.

His recent release, *Dirty Words: Provocative Erotica*, is a challenging and thoroughly enjoyable collection of short stories, all of which incorporate sex—and its peripheral issues—within their scope. Despite this common theme, the stories featured in this book cover a wide spectrum in terms of subject matter.

"Spike" focuses on the dominance and submission in an incestuous relationship between two identical twins, while "Matches" cleverly proposes the concept that our souls are perfect, beautiful, sexually charged beings once released from the body at death. In a raunchier vein, "The Harley" explores some very interesting dynamics involved when two bikers vie for possession of a dead comrade's Harley—and the favours of a grade 'A' bitch-boy. "Blueboy" is a chilling and sharp tale

about a sub-race—Blues—created to satisfy society's growing bloodlust and appetite for violence. This is a prime example of how author Christian balances eroticism with fiction—in this case, very disturbing and deftly wrought science fiction. It is one of *Dirty Words'* many highlights, well conceived and skillfully loaded with surprises and clever concepts. The author uses violence, either literal or metaphorical, with the same measured hand that a chef uses spice: it adds flavour—strong at times—but never overpowers.

Renowned writer Pat Califa-Rice (a friend of the author), in a suitably restrained but praiseful introduction, points out M. Christian's predilection for writing about oral sex. "I don't think I've ever encountered a writer who is more poetically obsessed with cock sucking as M. Christian," Califa-Rice writes. "He is a bard of deep throat, a lyrical celebrator of the profoundly transformative act of blowing a load all over somebody else's

tonsils." A few stories into *Dirty Words* it becomes hard to disagree. At times this fixation works against Christian and becomes repetitive, boring even in its regularity. The incidence of this is, however, limited and stacked up near the front, a small price to pay for the bulk of the work which is frequently quite brilliant.

M. Christian is a writer who doesn't force the reader to labour through overblown descriptions or struggle with metaphors that don't quite "click." Rather, his language is so carefully chosen that it comes across as an untailored stream of consciousness: offhand, easy and very, very honest. It is the kind of writing that makes the process of reading seem unnecessary—the ideas simply exist on the page like surprises, waiting to be experienced.

I strongly recommend you experience *Dirty Words: Provocative Erotica* by M. Christian for yourself.

Brian Mahoney & John McNeill

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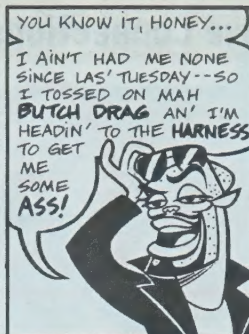
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BY
GLEN HANSON
and
ALLAN NEUWIRTH

LATE ONE NIGHT
IN THE HALLWAY
SKY ENCOUNTERS
AN UNFAMILIAR
FACE...



SOIREE? IS THAT YOU--?!



YOU KNOW IT, HONEY...
I AIN'T HAD ME NONE
SINCE LAS' TUESDAY--SO
I TOSSED ON MAH
BUTCH DRAG AN' I'M
HEADIN' TO THE HARNESS
TO GET
ME
SOME
ASS!



GOOD LUCK,
DUDE. HEY--
HOW'D YOU
GROW A
GOATEE SO
QUICKLY?
AND
VOILA!
CIAO,
BABY!



IN THE HARNESS... THERE'S A HOT NUMBER.



YO, PAPI...
WHAZZUP?
(DEEP VOICE)
YOU TELL
ME, BOY...



ONE QUICK CAB RIDE LATER...
YEH...
TAKE IT!
OOOOH...
COGE ME RICO,
PAPI CHULO!



THAT WAS GREAT, PAPA...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE
SINCE I WAS FUCKED
BY A REAL MAN.
DAMN RIGHT,
BOY...



IN THE NEWS

Like to sing in the shower? Are you a closet lip-syncher with delusions of grandeur? Are you an undiscovered choreographer or costume or set designer? Perhaps you have no artistic aspirations, but are interested in public relations or fund-raising? Then, friends, the Rocky Mountain Singers is the place for you!

Since 1989, the RMS has been a community of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and straight people creating a positive, supportive and social environment, sharing in musical growth, and celebrating the choral arts through the presentation of quality performances. Okay, that's our mission statement. But what does this really mean? Basically, that we're open to everyone; we are here to enjoy the experience of singing as a group, and sharing our music with others.

On the musical side, we welcome a wide spectrum of musical ability, from formally trained singers to those who like to sing but can't read a note of music. You are not required to audition to be a member of the chorus.

For those who don't want to sing, there is a wealth of opportunities available for non-singing members to be a part of RMS. We are always looking for people to work on fundraising, advertising, choreography, costuming and staging for our concerts.

Speaking of concerts, Rocky Mountain Singers will kick off Pride Month June 2 at the Rosza Centre at the University of Calgary with "That's Entertainment?!", a selection of music from stage and screen, both large and small, presented with a lavender tinge. It promises to be a concert unlike any RMS has previously given, so mark your calendars! We'll also be holding our annual Silent Auction, our major fundraiser for the year, so bring your credit cards, cash or cheques and be prepared to shop 'til you drop.

This season we are also launching a new sponsorship promotion, offering the Calgary community an opportunity to put their money where *our* mouths are, so to speak! Various levels of sponsorship are

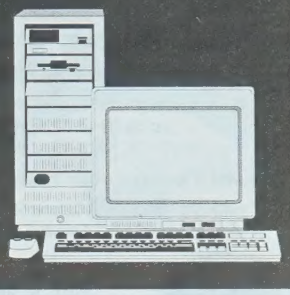
available, so contact us if you are interested in contributing.

We're hoping to be around for another thirteen seasons, and your support will make that a reality. And that grade six music teacher who said that you weren't good enough? Forget about it! It's time to get over that inhibition that we aren't "good enough." Experience the sheer joy of shaping your breath into music in harmony with others, the collective happiness and natural healing that comes with singing as a group. Nobody comes away from the singing experience feeling crabby. Even for "non-singers," becoming a member of the Rocky Mountain Singers is something that you should try. Come and join us!

Contact information:
Rocky Mountain Singers
Box 61 Station M Calgary, AB
T2P 2G9
Fax: 264-1203
Phone: 265-6433 (Penni/Sue)
or 541-0420 (Daryl/Dan).
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long term relationships

Box 2011: My name is Shawn, 26 years old, 5'6", 140lb, blond hair, hazel eyes. I'm basically looking for a longterm relationship. I'm looking for somebody that's a little more like me, that's into computers. I like movies, rollerblading, biking. I also like going to the clubs, but I don't like the bar scene anymore, it's just not what I want. I'm basically looking for a new start with somebody my own age, and someone with more interests.

Box 2153: I'm looking for a decent guy between 20-35, someone who's fit and masculine, straight looking and acting, who's not into the gay scene. Looking to date casually but hope for something more. I'm 31 years old, 6'2", 195lb, short hair, green eyes, in good shape, work out regularly, and looking for a similar type of guy.

Box 2162: 21 year old male here, 5'8", 155lb, average build. Just thought I'd check out the line, see if maybe I could meet some new people. Sort of tired of the bar scene, can only really meet phony people there, so I thought I'd give this a try. I'm looking for somebody who likes to have fun, relax, just do everything in life not just one thing. Sounds like you?

Box 2164: Attractive, young businessman, mid-20s, I travel to the Calgary area once in a while. I am 25, blond, blue eyes, 5'10", 175lb, very muscular, keep in good shape, dark tan, smooth everywhere, 7plus". I like playing sports, pool. Looking for a older gentleman, 38 plus, who is well-endowed, as I am a bottom, to have a regular ongoing relationship.

Box 2241: My name is Rob, 22 years old, 6'3", blond hair, blue eyes, told I'm good-looking, fully employed. I live on my own with a roommate and my cat. I'm looking for someone between 20-32 who has got their head on their shoulders, knows what they want out of life, not into drugs and alcohol, not an alcoholic. These things do not appeal to me, therefore I do not want them around me. You know what you want out of life, you're not afraid to try new things, mature and responsible, not into head games or the gay scene.

Box 2263: Young, cute guy here, 6', 150lb, greenish-blue eyes, light blond hair. Just looking for any decent guys out there who want to hook up and get to know each other, work it out from there.

Box 2271: My name's Shel, 37, 5'9", 160lb, well fit, work out every 2 days, Tae Kwan Do is a hobby on the side for 4-7 years, well-endowed, firm bum. I'm an anal man, love oral sex but I love the ass even more. Love touching, love dirty toys.

Box 2298: I'm an older gentleman, 56, looking to maybe meet a younger guy, not really young but younger than me, I'm 5'7", 135lb, light brown hair, moustache, hairy body. I have my own house in the North west Calgary. I'm looking for a longterm relationship. I'm not into the bar scene, but go out to the dances once in a while. Having difficulty meeting people, like to say I'm an older guy but people take me from early to mid-40s. Just looking to meet some nice guys and hoping for a longterm relationship.

Box 2313: Mike, 18, North east Surrey, I'm looking for guys my age or a little older. I like a lot of techno, and you have to have a sense of humour because I'll make jokes, if you laugh that'll be a pretty good thing.

casual encounters

Box 2000: Name is Bob, 50, tall, slim, wear glasses, balding, pretty fair shape. My thing is sucking cock, out cock only. I prefer about 6" or so. Like to meet people in my car and do the deed. I'm quite serious about this and would really appreciate only hearing from people that are equally serious. If getting a good, hopefully, blow job is what you have in mind, then come on back.

Box 2004: My name is John, 27, 6'2", 195lb, brown hair, brown eyes, told I'm cute. What I'm looking for is younger guys. Please leave me a message because when I get on line I can never seem to find the young ones. That's what I'm really looking for, cute young guys.

Box 2002: Ho ho ho, bah humbug. Did you get everything that you wanted for Christmas? I know I didn't. I'm a 45 year old top looking for a willing bottom. I'm 5'8", 185lb, and have a very hairy chest, stomach, balls. I have a 6" out cock. I'm looking for a willing bottom who loves to suck and loves to get "fucked". If you can fulfill my belated Christmas wishes, let me fill yours.

Box 2032: 5'10", 170lb, 7-1/2" thick cut cock, looking for some hot oral action. I am a top, enjoy that, but especially enjoy oral.

Box 2051: 34, 6'5", 230lb, 6" out. I'm looking for an older man, someone who's home during the day that I can come over once or twice a week for a nooner, or potentially a late afternoon/early evening blowjob. Potentially reciprocated once I get to know you. I have a very talented mouth. My balls are always full of cum. You want to suck a hot, young guy on occasion, couple of times a week. All responses will be contacted.

Box 2067: 21 year old athletic jock from Lethbridge, 6'1", 200lb, dark blond hair, blue eyes. Looking to meet up with other guys, 18-25, that are into sports and raving.

Box 2075: Hot attractive guy here, 5'10", 160lb, short brown hair, blue eyes, moderately hairy, clean-shaven, tanned, well-endowed, and like to play around. Very adventurous, very very hot stud looking to play. I'm looking to meet up with other people that are attractive as well, extremely attractive as myself.

Box 2099: I'm a bi male, 30 years old, 5'5", 140lb, blond hair, brown eyes. I'm just looking for casual encounters. I'm kind of attached right now, but yeah just looking for casual encounters like I said. I'm pretty well into anything.

Box 2117: I'm looking to have some fun. Asian male, 28, 130lb, dark hair, brown eyes, and looking for guys 34 or under.

Box 2118: Checking out the line here, looking for just some casual encounters, possibly on the sex side, possibly not maybe just friends. But do like sex for sure. I really like men, they turn me on, nice bulges, sexy eyes. I'm very very passionate. Will travel, if you can entertain on a casual basis that'd be cool. I've got 7-1/2" thick cut, moderately hairy bod, 5'5", 155lb. Pretty horny, can be a bottom or a top. Love sex, like swallowing, rimming.

Box 2121: I am a 36 year old male, 5'10", thinning hair, moustache, brown hair, 7" uncut cock. I am a bottom and only a bottom. I love a big cock sliding up my ass. I also like to suck and swallow, I love swallowing. I love licking up your cum. The more you've got, the better I am. I am also slightly overweight, about 200lb, slight potbelly, not too much, hairy.

Box 2126: Are you home alone? I'm 5'4", virgin, dreaming of being with somebody, kissing it on the side of my face, maybe a little more. You're looking for that 38 year old virgin.

Box 2131: This is Steve, 43, fun-loving, good-looking, 6', 230lb, well-built, clean-shaven, clean-cut. Love all kinds of sexy fun. Into some kinky, very

open-minded, would like to get together with others my age. Not into overweight people at all. I love oral, receiving, anal, and can entertain sometime and would be interested in groups of good-looking guys.

Box 2132: Shawn, 33, 6'1", 200lb, short brown hair, brown eyes, clean-shaven, lightly shaven body and pretty straight and narrow looking, otherwise behind closed door. Looking to meet up with guys who are into going out and having a few drinks, and well perhaps see how the evening goes.

Box 2137: 38, dude living in the North west Capital Hill, I love to entertain, free weekdays 9-5. I work out of my home, I'm all alone. I love to suck, rim, into anal, I'm a top, open-minded for all kinds of stuff.

Box 2209: Very clean, well-hung, masculine, bi male, real hot thick, close to 8" out cock, nice big purple mushroom shaped head, nice thick veiny shaft with shaved balls, nice fit smooth firm body, 5'10", 175lb, 28, short brown hair and eyes, attractive, lightly toned skin, Spanish looking in a way. Looking to travel, like someone who likes to take their time on a real nice cut cock, real thick and wide, I also like finger massages. I don't mind being watched, like to watch also. Very clean, safe, discreet, expect the same in return.

Box 2233: 25, university student, short brown hair, blue eyes, very good-looking, good shape, 5'9", 160lb. Looking for a little fun, versatile, looking for people about my age or younger, well-built.

Box 2245: Mark, 18, 6', 230lb, 6-1/2" out. Love to suck cock, lots of body contact and licking. Looking for guys my age, maybe older, I'm flexible.

Box 2255: I'm 32, 6'1", 185lb, fit, masculine, attractive. Really enjoy giving head and the best part about it is the reward at the end. Looking for basically, not necessarily anonymous but just a whole bunch of cocks to suck.

Box 2259: 34, gay male, just seeing who's out there and what's happening.

Box 2289: Andrew, 18, 6'1", 170lb, black and blond hair, brown eyes live out in the Campbell area looking to meet other gay guys around my own age. Open-minded is definitely a must.

Box 2297: I'd like to meet a guy between 18 to mid-20s who's interested in getting together with someone a little older. I'm 43, 6'2", 210lb, not bad-looking, pretty easy-going, laid-back, cool guy. Very clean, safe, discreet, I can entertain. You should be really smooth, enthusiastic and looking to have a good time. Ideally I'd like to have a casual, ongoing type of relationship.

Box 2320: 5'9", 195lb, new to this, never been with a man, willing to try. Black, 7" uncult, looking for some good clean fun.

Box 2022: Young guy, 5'8", nice body, looking for Black men or a group of white men. I'm about 8" long, 6" thick.

leather & SM

Box 2093: Total bottom boy looking for extremely dominant, aggressive experienced SM master top to work me over on a regular basis. Into hardcore SM, heavy verbal abuse and strict chastity control. I'm 5'11", blond hair, blue eyes, heavy-set chub bottom boy. Looking to be worked over.

Box 2257: 31, very attractive male, goatate, fit. Looking for a serious masculine guy between 32-38, rugged looking, urban cowboy looks, guys with goatate and very short hair. Love wearing rawhide, a jack strap and my boots. Love to get down and give head and more. If you enjoy making me eat a hot ass, appreciate a hot ass, you won't be disappointed. I have my own place and can entertain.

Box 2268: Fun Asian looking to try new things out, which is why I'm on the Cruiseline.

Box 2018: 6'1", 150lb, looking for a first time encounter.

bears, big men & their admirers

Box 2282: 47, bear type guy, 6', 240lb, moustache, goatate, very hairy, versatile, looking for other bear type guys or people that like bears. Interested in meeting guys just on a friendship basis.

transgender

Box 2123: Scott, single, 36, bi-curious, 5'2", 115lb, brown hair, hazel eyes, looking for an ongoing relationship with a very passable transsexual or transvestite.

Box 2048: This is Steve, 5'7", 155lb, feel I'm in good shape, brown hair and eyes, interested in a first time encounter with a TS or TV. Looking for one to take me, show me the ways, teach me what I should do, and make me happy.

Box 2028: Looking for any Black guy that likes white girls, who are transvestites. I wear short skirts, black nylons and like to have a good time. I can make you feel real good. I enjoy oral sex, anal sex, love the taste of hot cum. If you're willing to fill me up, let me know. I dress real nice, have silky pantyhose and I love sucking cock.

Box 2100: Attractive, sexy, bisexual male looking for sexy transvestites, crossdressers. 5'11", 165lb, very good shape, nice ass, enjoy playing, sucking, fucking and getting fucked.

Box 2127: 33, blond hair, green eyes, moustache, 5'10", 170lb, good shape, hairy muscular, good-looking, open-minded, very clean and discreet.

Box 2135: Joshua, 25, 6', 190lb, short black hair, blue eyes, clean-cut and clean-shaven, very attractive, in good shape, very open-minded, clean, discreet. Looking to find an attractive, passable, open-minded TV or TS to develop an ongoing relationship. I've never been with a man before, let alone a TV or TS. I'd like someone who is very patient and open minded and committed to possibly something ongoing.

Box 2188: Nikki, 21 pre-op transsexual, was living in Calgary and had to leave for BC for a couple of months. But I'm back here now, living here, still searching for that Mr. Right, a guy that could treat me good, like his lady, take care of me, and make me happy.

Box 2197: Late 40s, distinguished looking, bi-curious, slim guy, looking to meet someone who passes. Who would like to have some fun, show me the ropes, what to do. Really into oral, both giving and receiving.

Box 2319: What I'm looking for are transsexuals or she-males in the system to see each other on a regular basis and have a good time. I'm 24, very good-looking, 5'6", short black hair, very horny, 7" out, and I'm looking for somebody who loves to please me and likewise, I love to please somebody. But this is only for transsexuals and she-males.

bisexuals

Box 2061: 39, married, bi top, 5'8", short medium brown hair, big blue eyes, clean-shaven, 6-1/2" out cock, open-minded, adventuresome. Looking for some other bi bottoms, who might have the ability to entertain. My name's John, looking to party.

Box 2105: 25, male, blond, blue eyes, good-looking, looking for another really good-looking guy who's interested in a bisexual guy.

Box 2145: 20, Native, bi-curious, Tyson, just looking for some action.

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